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New American Paintings was founded in 1993 as an experiment in art publishing. With over five thousand artists reviewed annually, it has become America's largest and most important series of artist competitions. Each competition is cataloged in a unique volume: Northeast, South, Midwest, West, Pacific Coast, and MFA Annual. Featured artists are selected on the basis of artistic merit and provided space for free.

#### Northeast

CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, PA, RI, VT, NY

#### MFA Annual

CURRENT MASTERS OF FINE ARTS CANDIDATES

#### South

AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV

#### Midwest

IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI

#### West

AZ, CO, ID, KS, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WY

#### **Pacific Coast**

AK, CA, HI, OR, WA





# Benjamin Degen Editor's Pick p166 The frivolity of Benjamin Degen's work is not just visible in the rep-

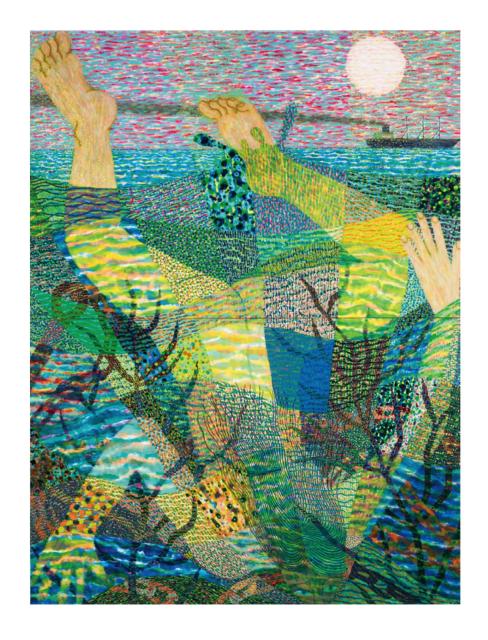
The frivolity of Benjamin Degen's work is not just visible in the representational narrative that plays out in his colorful scenes, but also in the playfulness with which he approaches formal issues, implied dimension and the resulting tension between pattern and abstraction. Faux bois bands of color are sewn back and forth across his compositions like stitches in a quilt, carrying with them a fresh aesthetic kinship with folk art. The formal inspection at play on the surface of these paintings is as much a character in Degen's images as the kittenish nude subjects that cavort throughout them.





### Benjamin Degen

Actor oil on linen over panel, 72 x 54 inches



Benjamin Degen

Diver oil on linen over panel, 72 x 54 inches



## Benjamin Degen

Symposium oil on canvas over panel, 72 x 108 inches

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# Benjamin Degen

New York, NY 347.789.7072 (American Contemporary) studio@benjamindegen.com / www.benjamindegen.com

	b. 1976 Brooklyn, NY
	Education
1998	BFA, The Cooper Union, New York, NY
1997	Norfolk Painting Fellowship, Yale University, New Haven, CT
	Residencies
2007	Me.di.um, St. Barthelemy, French West Indies
	Solo Exhibitions
2010	Out of the Dark, Into the Air, Museum 52 Gallery, New York, NY
2008	We can't stop living, Guild and Greyshkul, New York, NY
2007	Brick Layer, Mario Diacono, Boston, MA
	Me.di.um, St. Barthelemy, French West Indies
2006	A Tree is Falling, Kantor/Feuer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2004	Land Lives and Still Scapes, Guild and Greyshkul, New York, NY
	Group Exhibitions
2011	LANY, Peter Blum Gallery, New York, NY
2010	Reclining Nudes, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
2009	Cave Painting, Gresham's Ghost Gallery, New York, NY
2008	Recent Acquisitions, Gifts, Works from Various Exhibitions,
2000	White Column, New York, NY
2005	Greater New York, PS1 MOMA, Long Island City, NY
	Publications
2011	Vitamin P2
2009	The Judith Rothschild Contemporary Drawing Collection,
	Catalog Raisonne
	O-H-adiana
	Collections Collections Collections Collections
	Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia
	The Norman Museum of Contamporary Art
	The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art
	Represented by
	p

American Contemporary, New York, NY

Image functions as a space where the physical and the metaphysical planes of our existence intersect. Drawing, painting, and sculpture are the tools I use to access this image space. My pieces are constructions, utilizing individual elements and compositional conventions of Western and Eastern classical aesthetic traditions, American folk art, representational painting, abstract painting, video games, and typography as building materials. The compositions exist in an image space that floats between abstraction, pattern, and representation. This free-floating space is my Hephaestean forge where I attempt to smash together, interweave, and melt these elements into a new object.

