

Ian Cooper

New works in handmade paper

Dieu Donne is pleased to announce new works in paper by 2010-11 Workspace Resident Artist Ian Cooper. Inspired by the ubiquitous consequence of adolescent anxiety (or indulgence) this new series of works tackle both abstraction and abjection in one heave.

Working from their collective memories, Cooper and Studio Collaborator Akemi Martin, culled vats of appropriately pigmented paper pulp and, channeling the gesticulation of action painting, launched the material at tilted screens. The forms were further honed and articulated by hand and then peppered with a curated assortment of cast paper Froot Loops before being pressed flat, and in some cases further folded to fit corners.

Artist Statement

A 1987 Garbage Pail Kid card named Jack Splat depicts a crude caricature of legendary painter Jackson Pollack vomiting, in grey scale, upon a stretched canvas at his feet. Although this specific historical reference was likely lost on the consuming demographic, the card's round-about sentiment of championing the most base form of expressionistic mark-making served to cement this fundamentally existential gesture: to hurl one's insides out, is not only to "revolt" but to leave a visceral trace of "being." This trace or stain is reminiscent of what turn-of-the-century spiritualists referred to as ectoplasm: a viscous substance either excreted from a medium's mouth during trances or found at locations of hauntings. As such, a splash of vomit, albeit typically errant, operates as a circumstantial signature of human presence: so-and-so "was here." Conversely, it can function as an x-marks-the-spot or a surrogate for the floor-plan lingo: "you are here," in the way a lone hiker discovers a cleverly stacked pile of rocks along a trail and recognizes that he/she is "somewhere," or more poignantly somewhere someone has been.

—Ian Cooper

About the artist

Ian Cooper was born and raised in New York City and currently lives and works in Red Hook, Brooklyn. He received a B.S. in Studio Art from New York University in 2000. He has had solo exhibitions at CUE Arts Foundation, New York and Sandroni.Rey, Los Angeles, CA. The artist's work has been included in shows at the following organizations: Elizabeth Foundation, International Print Center, Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery, and Tracy Williams, LTD. in New York, among others. His work is in the permanent collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Contact: Kathleen Flynn, kflynn@dieudonne.org, or call 212.226.0573 ext. 202

TOP: *Cameo #1* (installation shot), 2011. pigmented cotton pulp with cast cotton 'Froot Loops' and applied abaca. 54 x 32.5 inches. BOTTOM: *Cameo #2*, 2011. pigmented cotton pulp with cast cotton 'Froot Loops' and applied abaca. 54 x 35.5 inches.



315 West 36th Street
New York, NY 10018
T 212 226 0573
F 212 226 6086
www.dieudonne.org