

**JOHNSON
LOWE** GALLERY

BENJAMIN STEELE

b.1982; Cambridge, Massachusetts

764 Miami Circle NE, Suite 210, Atlanta, GA 30324

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BIOGRAPHY

The universe inhabited by Benjamin Steele's paintings is carefully balanced between optimism and ruin. All of time collapses combining both a sense of humanity's greatest moments of ingenuity while simultaneously that we are subject to fate and a world which returns us to a state of entropy. His paintings address the greater questions in life, causing viewers to search for meaning while creating connections between otherwise disconnected objects, images, and events.

Steele is drawn to the utopian ideals put forth in futuristic architecture and sees this as a way humanity continually strives for a world that is just out of reach. The promised future is never here. Forms refer to futurism and invention in multiple times and places in our world's history. They also at times appear to be in a state of ruin or construction. He is interested in how representing ideas of the future from the past creates a tension and feeling of displacement in time. Across multiple paintings a single form may appear more than once, seen at different scales, from diverse angles and in changing environments, as if in a shuffling of a giant deck of human history.

Through many works there is a relationship drawn between earthly concerns and those from above. Searchlights, rainbows, fireworks, and comets serve as backdrops indicating a quest for knowledge, redemption, disaster, or celebration. Contemporary concerns involving space exploration, rising water levels, and natural disasters feel of the moment, yet possess a deep reach back through human imagination. Steele's work takes inspiration from the vast history of landscape painting, futuristic architecture, designs and inventions, science fiction literature, and special effect cinematography. In the studio, he employs a variety of media from which to inspire paintings: Projection, 3D printing, Mold making, Carvings, Laser -Cut Constructions, Mirrors, and Found Objects all form expansive installations which serve as subject matter for an ever-expanding universe of forms and juxtapositions.

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EDUCATION

- 2008 M.F.A. Mount Royal School of Art, Maryland Institute College of Art
2004 B.F.A. Painting, Washington University in St. Louis

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *The Shape of Things to Come*, Mason Scharfenstein Museum of Art, Demores, GA
2024 *The Shape of Things to Come*, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
2019 *The Shape of Things to Come*, Poem 88, Atlanta, GA
2014 *From This, A Mountain*, Poem 88, Atlanta, GA
2011 *16-Sided Crystal*, Kiang Projects, Atlanta, GA
2009 *Prism Paintings*, Red Creative, Atlanta, GA
2008 *Prism Paintings*, The Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA
Contemporary Sublime, Bank 500 Gallery, MD
2007 *In-Vision*, Peabody Institute, Maestro Gallery, Baltimore, MD

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Encounters, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
2023 *Gathered VI*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta, GA
2022 *Contemporary Landscapes*, Marietta Cobb Museum of Art, Marietta, GA
Gathered V, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta, GA
2017 *Abstracts*, Poem 88, Atlanta, GA
Gathered 3, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia
2016 *Abstraction Today*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia
4 Atlanta Artists, Atlas Gallery, The St. Regis Hotel, Atlanta, GA
2015 *Sprawl*, The High Museum
2014 *Gathered*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia
2013 *Blow-Up*, Poem 88 Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2012 *Scripts and Systems*, Lexington Art League, Lexington KY
Why Paint Now?, Kiang Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2011 *Small Pieces Loosely Joined*, Kiang Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2010 *Gaia: Celestial Fragments*, Primo Piano Living Gallery, Lecce, Italy
2009 *Summer Guest House*, Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2008 *Some Like it Hot*, Jordan Faye Contemporary, Baltimore, MD
Archimage, Gallery Four, Baltimore, MD
The Maryland Institute College of Art MFA Thesis Exhibition, Decker and Meyerhoff Galleries
2007 *Noumenon*, Bank 500 Gallery, Baltimore, MD
A Vague Spatial Area: Mount Royal Group Show, Fox 3 Gallery, Baltimore, MD
The DCCA Biennial MFA Exhibition, The Delaware Center for Contemporary Art
A Confluence of Raconteurs: An Artscape Exhibition, Towson University, Towson, MD
The Menu Show: An Artscape Exhibition, Northwest Studio Gallery, Baltimore
2006 *(Which is kind of Interesting): Mount Royal Group Show*, Fox 3 Gallery, Baltimore, MD
2004 Senior Thesis Exhibit, Washington University Gallery of Art, St. Louis, MO

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2003 "The Romance Issue" painting show, Des Lee Gallery, St. Louis, MO
Norfolk Summer Fellows Group Show, Ellen Battell Stoeckel Estate: Yale University

AWARDS & TALKS

2024 *Best of Atlanta*, Insider Art Event, Atlanta Magazine
2014 Sincerity in Painting: Discussion at *From This, A Mountain*, Poem 88 Gallery
2012 Painters in Dialogue, The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center
ARTSpeak Special: Craig Drennen and Ben Steele Reflect on Art Basel, *Burnaway*
2008 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant Nominee

RESIDENCIES

2012 Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vermont
2011 Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences, Rabun, Georgia

PRESS

2024 New American Paintings issue #172
2021 10th Annual International Painting Annual Hardcover Publication, Manifest Gallery
2018 New American Paintings issue #136
2014 Feaster, Felica, "Artist captures 2 views of the world", *Atlanta Journal Constitution*
Weiskopf, Dan, "Studio Visit: Ben Steele-Interview", *Burnaway*
2013 Lampe, Lilly, "Blow-Up at Poem 88 reveals in film themes: Five artists tackle the unstable nature of Michelangelo Antonioni's filmic reality", *Creative Loafing*
Cullum, Jerry, "At {Poem 88}, the ambiguity of Antonioni's 'Blow-Up,' seen through 47 years", *ArtsATL*
Sullivan, Carly. "SEEK ATL: Connecting Community Through Studio Visits", *Burnaway*
2012 New American Paintings issue #100
Abernathy, Jeremy. "ARTSpeak Special: Craig Drennen and Ben Steele Reflect on Art Basel 2012", *Burnaway*
Stevens, Faatimah. "Ben Steele's Paintings Capture Real Illusions at Kiang Projects", *Burnaway*
2011 Fox, Catherine, "The year in review: In an economic drought, Atlanta's art 'tree' flourishes and blooms", *ArtsATL*
Stalker, Robert, "Review: Ben Steele's ethereal, mysterious paintings at Kiang Projects", *ArtsATL*
Cochran, Rebecca Dimling, "With SEEKATL, artists Ben Steele and Shara Hughes foster conversation and community", *ArtsATL*
Cochran, Rebecca Dimling. "Review: Kiang's 'Small Pieces' explores new information age", *ArtsATL*
2009 *Studio Visit* national artist catalogue Vol. 6, Open Studio Press
2008 *Studio Visit* national artist catalogue Vol. 3, Open Studio Press

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