



RICHARD DUPONT : BIOMETRIES, HEADS AND ISLANDS

October 14 – November 28, 2021

Artist's Reception: October 14, 2021, 6 – 8 PM

ARC Fine Art is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition, *Richard Dupont: Biometries, Heads and Islands* opening in its Fairfield, CT gallery on Thursday, October 14th with an artist's reception from 6 to 8 pm. On view through November 28th, the exhibition will include works from three distinct series by the artist, including a selection of new paintings from his celebrated *Biometry* series based on digital renderings of the artist's full body, a pair of his sculptural *Collection Heads*, and a suite of recent watercolors, collectively titled *Islands*, that captivated the artist's creative attention during the global pandemic.

Richard Dupont (born 1968) is an American contemporary artist. His artistic practice includes installations, sculptures, prints, paintings, and drawings. He received a BA from the Departments of Visual Art and Art and Archeology at Princeton University. A pioneer in the field of digital art, Dupont's work draws from a variety of themes and references including the Body art, Process art and Systems art movements of the 1960s and 1970s. The experimental and critical nature of these earlier movements is reexamined through the 21st Century lens of digital technology. Dupont's work also references the history of sculpture, from the archaic to the Modern, and engages traditional forms which are both embraced and upended.

Between 2002 and 2004, in a gesture that now seems highly prescient, Dupont created a full body, high resolution digital replica of himself. A critical interest in the social implications of biometric technologies and big data underpins much of his work. The first work created from the digital body model was purchased by the Museum of Modern Art in 2004. In order to gain access to a scanner at that time, Dupont agreed to cooperate with a US Military study, and had his entire body scanned at a General Dynamics facility on the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. The data obtained from this full body scan has informed much of his production since then.



The current exhibition will feature a selection of his most recent *Biometry* paintings, large-scale works rendered in oil-based silkscreen ink on raw canvas. Although originally based on the digital scans, these paintings have a strong material presence, which gives his conceptual gestures a formal punch.

Also on view, a pair of Dupont's sculptural heads made of resin and found objects offer another facet of the artist's production. *The Collection Heads* are an ongoing series begun in 2010. Time capsules, memory banks, reliquaries; these sculptures began as a means of repurposing Dupont's vast studio archive of residue. Older works, false starts, dead ends, process and studio detritus; as well as found, recycled and collected materials were combined and imbedded in a UV stable polyurethane resin. They represent an archive of material culture both deeply personal and universal.

The exhibition will also feature a selection of Dupont's *Islands*, a series of watercolors, which possess an immediacy and spontaneity absent in the other works on view. Begun in the summer of 2020 while isolating in a small village in Maine, Dupont's watercolors are part of a sustained recent engagement with drawing. Both drawing and printmaking have long played a central role in his work, with an open-ended, experimental approach that allows for a more intuitive development of forms and ideas to emerge. Many of his recent *Islands* series of watercolors find precedent in both Japanese ink painting and early American watercolors, and represent a return to nature amidst the isolation of the past 18 months.

Since 2008, Dupont's works had been exhibited widely in prominent museums including the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Underground Museum, LA, and the Museum of Art and Design, NY. He has presented major installations at Lever House and the Flag Art Foundation, both in New York City and in 2014, he was awarded the Museum of Arts and Design Visionary Award: "In recognition of remarkable innovations in the arts and the field of digital design."

Dupont's works are included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art; the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Hammer Museum, the Yale University Art gallery, SF MoMA, and the New York Public Library Print Collection among many others.