



White Swan, 2011, 18" x 24", watercolor, ink, paint on paper

MICHAEL ALAN

b. 1977

Dissecting, amplifying, sampling and distorting, Michael Alan explores spaces that walk along the edge of figure and the abstract. These pictures are interpretations of the human body within the world, which is simply an abstraction of our minds. The body is abstract, emotions are abstract. Alan uses his surface as an emotional reader to document these intangible realities.

Through various layers, media, and techniques, Alan approaches the work as a celebration of the attainable and unexplainable. Each work is disembodied, dislocated, space and anatomy are questioned. Body parts and their "order" are re-imagined, and working through layers, watercolor, line work, faces, shapes and an army of images, Alan renders perceptible volume in 2-dimensional pieces. Rather than making definitive statements, his pictures rest on the edge of a question and its answer: enigmas.



Flesh and Bone, 2011, 22" x 28", ink on paper

SELECTED PRESS

From the Village Voice "Best in Show", 2010

"Alan loves motion... The angular, attenuated limbs and their busy surfaces bring to mind one of Egon Schiele's more anxious self-portraits." – Robert Shuster, July 2010

From Marie Claire Italia

"Art has to come to life... [Michael Alan is] an art prodigy...his flamboyant creativity mixes action, music, bodies, and on from there. His drawings and sculptures live." – Ilka Scobie, March 2010

From the New York Times

"[His art is] To recapture what has been lost and update it with a big splash of paint." – Ruth La Ferla, April 30, 2009

SOLO EXHIBITS

"Blurred / Reformed / Dissected", Eastern District
Brooklyn, NY 2010

"Harmonious Opposities", Gasser Grunert
New York, NY, 2010

"Artist Factory" (w. performance), The Chelsea Art Museum
New York, NY, 2009

"A Thing", McCaig & Welles Gallery
Brooklyn, NY, 2008

"Tea Party", Jack the Pelican Presents
Brooklyn, NY, 2008

"Chronic Time Exaggerator", Greene Street Gallery
New York, NY, 2006

"Visual Discoveries", KMG Gallery
New York, NY, 2004



Marie Claire Italia, March 2010

BIOGRAPHY

For Michael Alan, art is a combination of harmonious opposites, close observation, catharsis, a means of communication and a radical juxtaposition of dimensional elements. He challenges everything: concepts of figure, composition, media and movement, including his own. Exploring the ambiguity of time and history, Alan's work focuses on crossbreeding and the relationship of destruction and creation.

Alan was born in the summer of 1977, in New York City during blackout. His work has been featured in 7 New York solo shows and over 200 group shows. His work has been discussed in over 200 publications, books and media sources, including the New York Times, NBC's Today Show, Marie Claire Italia, Art+Auction, Art Info, The New York Post, Fox Channel 5, the Village Voice's "Best in Show", Time Out New York, and the New York Press. In addition to his work as a solo artist, Michael is the founder and director of The Living Installation, where he transforms human beings into unique, living art objects.

He currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.