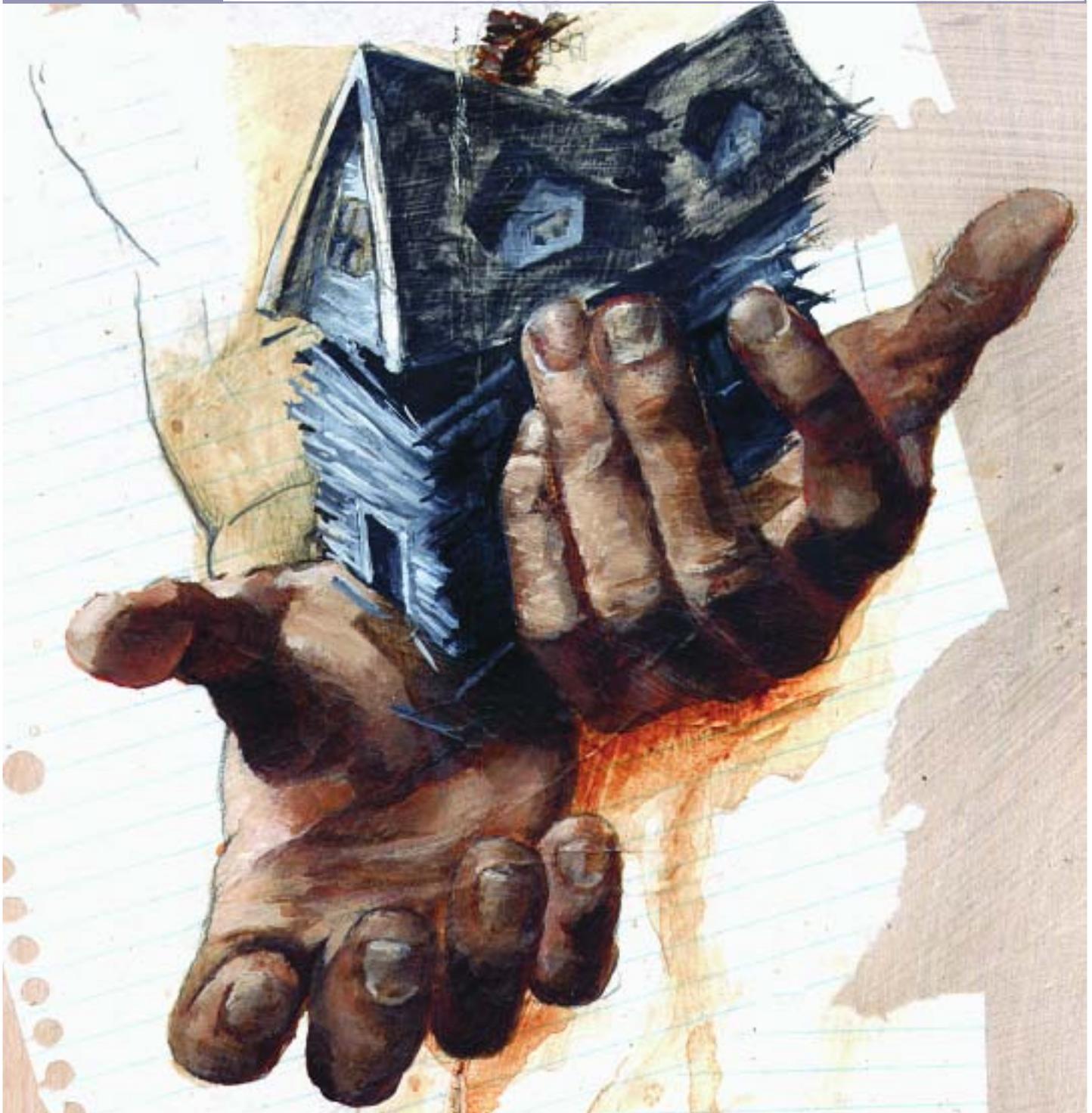


TopSpin
Artists of Western New York and Beyond

Matthew Duquette: Vessels

October 2, 2011-January 15, 2012

Opening reception with artist talk, Sunday, October 9, 2:00-4:00 p.m.



matthew**duquette**

Change of Address, 2008, mixed media on wood, 8 x 10 in.



Chest of Drawers, 2011, acrylic on board, 15 x 20 in.

Mathew Duquette describes his recent work as “inspired by my past, present and future physical and metaphysical experiences.” Focusing on the nostalgia of childhood, his path to parenthood and the concept of transmigration of the soul, he “digs deep in the dark rooms of the mind and edits what most presumably is the climax of an event, dream or idea.” Duquette’s intention is to tell the complete story—with one striking, narrative image.

Through works featured in *Vessels*, Duquette shares his introspections on the concept of containment. Vessels of containment are derived from reflections on three aspects of his life—travel, storage and biology. In the 21st century, it is common for people to relocate numerous times throughout their lives. To Duquette, moving from place to place reinforces the spatial relativity of the physical landscape. This is reflected in his work *Migration* (2009) which documents such a move from Buffalo, NY to Chapel Hill, NC and back again. Experiencing the physicality of the size of the country through periodic relocations, as well as transporting one’s belongings, offers a sense of the distances between locations and the amount of time and energy it takes to get there. *Change of Address* (2008) and *A House is House for Me* (2010) illustrate the responsibility and challenges of relocation.

A vessel of storage can include the physical attributes of one’s being. Duquette states, “an individual is a holder of material and non-material commodities.” He or she becomes a vessel of experiences and memories. Expressed in *Domestic* (2011), the artist symbolizes this through the myriad of drawers within the figure’s body, inferring that opening a draw is like reliving



A House is House for Me, 2010, acrylic on board, 15 x 20 in.

a memory. His biological substance, in effect his mind and spirit, become a vessel for defining the culmination, to date, of his life experiences.

Thirdly, Duquette explains that his wife Laura is “a vessel of biological reproduction.” The birth of their son Gable is perhaps the pinnacle of passing on material and non-material “commodities” to the next generation. These commodities include things such as genetics and family heirlooms. From Duquette’s point of view, the body becomes storage of existing spiritual energy and has the ability to nurture a new life. This concept is revealed in *Precious Cargo* (2011) featuring an image of his wife Laura and unborn son Gable. *Setting Forth* and *Headup* (both 2011) feature a humorous look at child development. *Setting Forth* places parents Matt and Laura in a gondola beneath a hot air balloon (represented by Gable’s head) symbolizing the remarkable journey their new child will take them on. *Headup* is a more meditative look at parents’ position of contemplation and influence over their child’s growth and development.

Duquette’s works are filled with newspaper clippings, Post-It-Notes; handwritten letters, scrap sketches, and layered with acrylic and pencil on board. Quite often, each scrap of material is related to the concept and has a story of its own. Duquette states, “It’s all about the gritty memories and experience that come with surviving life and through the (artwork) construction, each piece allows for various levels of tactile and psychological meaning.”

Michael J. Beam, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions



Headup, 2011, acrylic on wood, 12 x 14 in.



Lofty Dreams, 2009, mixed media, 13 x 10 in.



Precious Cargo, 2011, acrylic on board, 20 x 30 in.



Prepare for Impact, 2009, acrylic on canvas, 20 x 30 in.

Artists Statement

Inspired, recently by several life changing moments, and the children's book *A House is a House for Me* (Puffin Publishers 2007) I've been drawn to the idea that everything is a vessel in some capacity. From the literal to the metaphorical, I explore concepts based on family, travel, nostalgia and where they all may live. The body of work as a whole is also a vessel carrying tangible memories of the past few years.

As artists, we are storytellers and my intention is to tell the complete story with a powerful one-liner, or capture it's essence in one striking image. The physical materials of the illustration are newspaper clippings, post it notes, hand written letters, scrap sketches and layered with acrylic and pencil on board to show the depth, complexity and confusion of seeking out that climactic moment. Quite often these surfaces themselves are related directly to the event, or have a story of their own.

Matthew Duquette

www.mattduquette.com

Matt Duquette was born in 1976 and raised in the historic City of Tonawanda, NY. He was wildly excited by cartoons and comic books at an early age. Duquette's imagination, sense of humor and introverted personal nature kept him busy doodling while he toyed with the idea of becoming a professional artist. During his college experience, he was exposed to the work of numerous artists whose work was influential and likened to his own style; Duquette became passionate about his craft.

In 2001, Duquette received a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York. With paper proof in his hand, he set out into the real world to become a full time artist. He was able to land a position as an animator and web designer. Shortly after the 2001 "dot com bust," he returned to Western New York where he took a teaching position at Niagara County Community College and an art director position at a local web design firm. A decade later, he left agency life to develop 12 Grain Studio which allows him daily freedom to generate creativity on the web, in print and on canvas. Duquette has exhibited in Buffalo, New York City and Durham, NC. He has been published in *Playboy*, *Punk Planet* and *Spectrum Fantastic Art*, among others. In his free time he scours flea markets, builds furniture from found and recycled materials and enjoys cooking with his family.

EDUCATION

2001

Master of Fine Arts, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY

1999

Bachelor of Science, with Honors, Rochester Institute of Technology, NY

1994-1996

Fine Arts Course Work, Niagara County Community College, Sanborn, NY

RECENT EXHIBITIONS

Solo exhibitions are indicated with an asterisk.

2010

POPI, Blink Gallery, Buffalo, NY

The Furies of Mother Jones, Subversive Theater, Buffalo, NY

Symbiosis, 464 Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Matt Duquette & Sean Madden, The Vault, Buffalo, NY

Fine Arts Alumni, Niagara County Community College, Sanborn, NY

2009

Prepare For Landing, Golden Belt Gallery, Durham, NC*

Transitions, Wootini Gallery, Carrboro, NC*

Figurative, Merge Restaurant, Buffalo, NY

Open Studios, Urban Roots, Buffalo, NY

2000-2008

In The Pit, Guerilla Gallery, Buffalo, NY*

Faculty Exhibition, Niagara County Community College, Sanborn, NY

Welcome To The Show, Thesis Exhibition, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY*

In Your Neighborhood, Partners in Art, North Tonawanda, NY

PUBLISHED WORK

"The Best in Fantastic Art," (Annual), *Spectrum*, 2010 Vol. 17, pg.282

"Found Founder," *Found Magazine*, January, 2004

"A Silver Lining," *Punk Planet* magazine, February 2005

"Civil Disobedience," *Punk Planet* magazine, June, 2003

"The Best in Fantastic Art" (Annual), *Spectrum*, 2001, Vol. 8, pg. 142

"The Collection Treatment," *Playboy*, 2000, October, pg. 94

PRESS

Arts Review of "Prepare For Landing," *The Duke Chronicle*, November 2009.

www.dukechronicle.com/article/prepare-landing

"8 Days A Week Feature," *INDY Weekly*, 2009, Vol. 26, No. 45

"Artist Watch," *Escape Into Life*, December, 2009. www.escapeintolife.com/artistwatch/matt-duquette

Featured Artist, *The Artery Magazine*, February, 2009.

www.thearterymagazine.com/featured/matt-duquette

"Artists Among Us," *Buffalo Rising*, August, 2007.

www.archives.buffalorising.com/story/artists_among_us_matt-duquette

Featured Artist, *HumbleVoice*, January, 2005

EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

A House is House for Me, 2010, acrylic on board, 15 x 20 in.

A New Day, 2009, acrylic on board, 15 x 20 in.

Buzzards with Sweaters, 2009, acrylic on board, 15 x 20 in.

Change of Address, 2008, mixed media on wood, 8 x 10 in.

Chest of Drawers, 2011, acrylic on board, 15 x 20 in.

Domestic, 2011, acrylic on board, 15 x 18 in.

Headup, 2011, acrylic on wood, 12 x 14 in.

Homesick, 2010 acrylic on wood, 24 x 30 in.

Setting Forth, 2011, acrylic on board, 15 x 20 in.

Lofty Dreams, 2009, mixed media, 13 x 10 in.

Migration, 2009, mixed media, 20 x 30 in.

On We March, 2011, mixed media on board, 15 x 20 in.

Precious Cargo, 2011, acrylic on board, 20 x 30 in.

Prepare for Impact, 2009, acrylic on canvas, 20 x 30 in.

The Welder's Daughter, 2009, mixed media, 15 x 20 in.

A Nutshell's a Hut for a Hickory Nut, 2011, mixed media, 10 x 24 in.

Amnesiac, 2011, mixed media, 21 x 25 in.

Lucas with the Lid Off, 2009, mixed media, 13 x 10 in.

Unknown Road, 2011, oil on canvas, 34 x 40 in.

TopSpin

Artists of the Buffalo/Niagara Region

The museum's Tops Gallery—dedicated to the exhibition of work by local and regional artists—presents the **TopSpin** series. **TopSpin** features a broad range of visual expressions, varied in media as well as message, and focuses mainly on new and emerging artists.

TopSpin is made possible through the generous Support of Tops Friendly Markets, LLC.

TOPS



This exhibit is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, Celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties.

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