The image shows a corner of a room with bright yellow walls. The walls are decorated with horizontal blue stripes that are slightly curved, following the perspective of the corner. The stripes are evenly spaced and create a rhythmic pattern. The lighting is even, highlighting the texture of the walls.

Christopher Paul Dean

Reconfigured

GALLERI URBANE

Reconfigured

April 6 - May 4, 2019

Galleri Urbane is delighted to host Dallas newcomer Christopher Paul Dean for his first solo exhibition in the region. The work in *Reconfigured* belongs to an on-going series that began during Dean's graduate studies at Savannah College of Art and Design and includes work made from 2017 to the present. Through multiple two- and three-dimensional explorations, Dean's exhibition invites viewers to reconsider their own past, current, and future interactions with the familiar.

At the core of Dean's practice is an interest in the potential of the readymade. While Marcel Duchamp most notably implemented the readymade within an art context, Dean's efforts fall closer in line with those of artists like Jasper Johns who made the readymade unique through artistic manipulation. While Johns drew from familiar icons of Americana, Dean has gravitated towards more universally utilized symbols associated with standardized accident prevention. Appropriating the visual lexicon of safety markers including caution stripes and barricade patterns, Dean aims to disrupt viewers' preexisting modes of interaction and expectations of the symbols we encounter daily. Through his paintings and sculptures, the familiar is placed in a state of flux and in turn reveals potential in what could perhaps be considered mundane.

A selection of works included in Dean's 2017 thesis exhibition for SCAD have been revisited in *Reconfigured*, appropriately reimagined for the new context at Galleri Urbane. *Recycled*

Rubber Parking Blocks: Composition no. 3 (2019), for example, is comprised of individual units that can be endlessly arranged to produce compositions of various degrees of complexity. The series is a perfect example of Dean's ability to shift one's reading of mass-manufactured objects, offering vastly different effect through simple rearrangement. Additionally, recent additions to the artist's series are on display for the first time. Most notably, Dean's *OSHA/ANSI Integrated Barricade Warning: Embroidery* series from this year broadens his execution of the barricade pattern through a brand new medium. In contrast to the earlier hard-edge, geometric iterations, the fiber-based medium used to construct these patterns offer a softer representation of the emblem. Hand-stitched in thread, this new series brings about entirely new readings of the familiar signifier in Dean's oeuvre.

The deconstructive/reconstructive nature of the work in *Reconfigured* is not only achieved through a disruption of formal qualities, such as texture, color, material, and scale. It also agitates normative body-to-object interactions by undermining the intended function of each readymade. Through this, Dean brings one's interactions with the familiar into focus and provides a platform for reevaluating beliefs and assumptions.





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Artworks

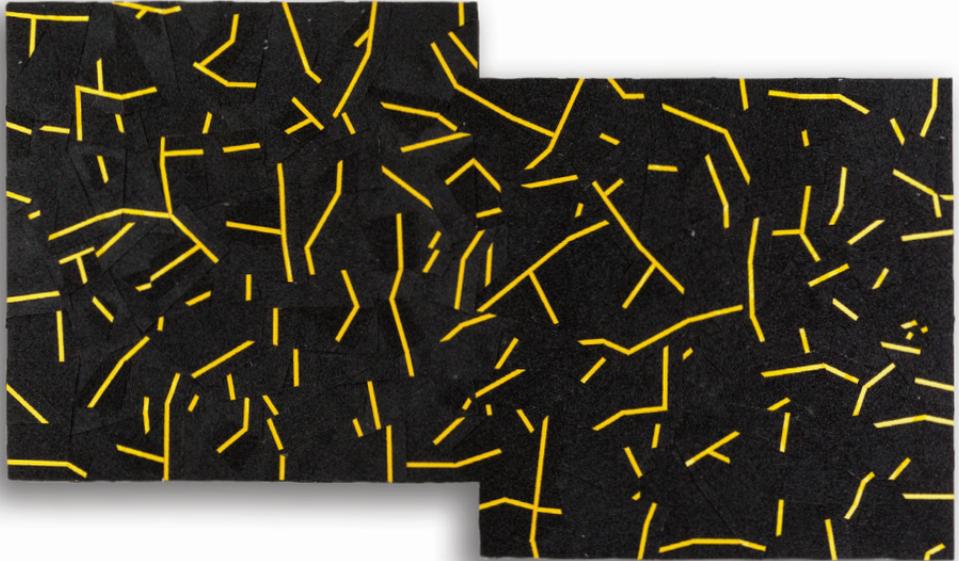
Full list available by request



*OSHA/ANSI Barricade Warning:
Physical Hazard no. 1, 2017
Non-Slip Hazard Flooring Die Cuts
Dimensions Variable*



*OSHA/ANSI Intergrated Barricade Warning
Combinations Latex Paint no. 11, 2018*
Paint on panel
24 x 24 x 3 in.



Tread (4), 2018
Safety Walk Slip Resistant and
Reflective Tread
28 x 48 x 4 in.



*OSHA/ANSI Intergrated Barricade Warning
Combinations : Embroidery no.2, 2019
Embroidery on Canvas
7 x 16 x 3/4 in.*



*OSHA/ANSI Barricade Warning: Housekeeping
& Aisle Marking Embroidery no. 5, 2019*
Embroidery on Canvas
11 x 11 x 3/4 in.

About the Artist

Christopher Paul Dean was born an hour north of London in Milton Keynes, England. Dean has an Undergraduate Degree in Contemporary Applied Arts from the University of Hertfordshire (England), and a Masters Degree in Sculpture from The Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta. Since 2010 Dean has worked as an Artist Assistant in Denmark (Folk Art School, Holbæk), Detroit (Cranbrook Academy of Art), and Mexico (U.S Consulate, Monterrey). Dean also worked in the Exhibitions Department at the SCAD Museum of Art as an Art Preparator where he assisted a whole host of Artists, Curators, and Designers. Dean currently works as full-time assistant to Installation Artist Gabriel Dawe. Dean has been featured in multiple publications including Artvoices Magazine, a feature in Studio Visit, Looking at Painting and 101 Contemporary Artists. Dean has exhibited in numerous locations including London, NYC, Atlanta, and more recently at UNTITLED as part of Art Basel Miami Beach, 2017.

GALLERI URBANE

2277 Monitor St.
Dallas, TX 75069

325-226-8015
galleriurbane.com