



Biography | Ben stephenson

Ben Stephenson is a British artist whose work is centred around notions of the exotic, especially the way in which this has been mythologised and romanticised throughout the canons of Eurocentric art history. This fascination with the distortion of the exotic Other and its natural environment, as well as the way in which we can perceive ourselves as a stranger to this sense of Otherness, led him to travel to Latin America where he is currently exploring diverse holistic visions and animistic belief systems of indigenous communities.

Stephenson continues with the canon of stereotypes of art history portrayed by artists such as Henri Rousseau and Paul Gauguin, but in a self-reflective, critical and sometimes humorous way, not necessarily to self-perpetuate the myths of the Western explorer, but to question them honestly.

His work explores ideas of shared history and human experience. In essence, how the viewer can relate and empathise with the imagined Other through stories and images. He is interested in the ways in which these stories are transformed into living beings in themselves and that is why he combines images of origin with drawings of observation to create fantastic narratives that refer to popular tradition and myths to create a kind of fantastic realism.

He works with a variety of media including painting, sculpture and engraving. He majored in painting at Wimbledon College of Arts (London) and graduated with a First Class Bachelor of Honor in 2014, followed by a scholarship at the Royal Drawing School (London).