

About James Capper

James Capper (b.1987, London) uses his background in agricultural mechanics to fabricate large-scale mobile sculptures. Trained as a welder and a graduate of the Royal College of Art, Capper's work combines drawing with speculative engineering and biology, producing mobile sculpture. These operate within 'divisions' of engagement with the world in Earth Marking, Aviation, Materials Handling, and Offshore environments. Each 'division' develops from a prototype, both technically and aesthetically, as Capper constantly experiments with new engineering solutions.

Solo exhibitions of the artist's work have taken place at Albion Barn, Oxford (2022); Alex Eagle Studio, London (2022); MONA, Barriedale (2021); Forth Arts Residency, Sydney (2019) Hannah Barry Gallery, London (2018); and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst (2017), among others. In 2020, the artist was commissioned by the Battersea Power Station to create MUDSKIPPER WALKING WORKBOAT, and in 2023 he was commissioned by Gallery Town to create Camellia. The artist participated in group exhibitions held at Hannah Barry Gallery, London (2022); Safehouse 1, London (2022); Alma Zevi, Venice (2021); Albion Barn, Oxford (2021); Serpentine Galleries, London (2018); and the Science Museum, London (2018), among others. In 2011, James Capper received the Royal Society of British Sculptors Bursary Award. In 2009 he was the youngest artist ever awarded The Jack Goldhill Prize for Sculpture from the Royal Academy of Arts and was nominated for the Jerwood Sculpture Prize. In 2023, Capper was the only artist presented at the Science Museum in an exhibition on leading engineers, globally. His work is held in the Science Museum's permanent collection.

CV

Born in 1987, London, UK.

Lives and works in London, UK.

EDUCATION

2010 Royal College of Art, London, UK
2008 Chelsea College of Art & Design, London, UK

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *JAMES CAPPER: HYDRALINER & THE LINEAR PAINTINGS*, Albion Barn, Oxford, UK
ROTARY PAINTINGS & HYDRA PAINTER, Alex Eagle Studio, London, UK

2021 *JAMES CAPPER – PROTOTYPES OF SPECULATIVE ENGINEERING*, MONA, Barriedale, Tasmania
JAMES CAPPER: ROTARY PAINTINGS & HYDRA PAINTER, Albion Barn, Oxford, UK

2019 *Blue Frame & HYDRA STEP / HYDRA SHUFFLE*, Forth Arts Residency, Sydney, Australia
(commission)
AEROCAB, 3-D Foundation, Verbier, Switzerland (commission)

2018 *WAYS TO MAKE A SHIP WALK*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2017 *James Capper, Mark Maker*, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst, Australia

JAMES CAPPER, Albion Barn, Oxford, UK

James Capper SCULPTURE & HYDRAULICS, The Edge Institute of Contemporary Interdisciplinary Arts, University of Bath, Bath, UK

2016 *James Capper*, Art in Romney Marsh, Kent, UK

PORTA CARVE, Vigo Gallery, London, UK

ATLAS A SPOLETO! / TELESTEP A SPOLETO!, Anna Maher Association project for the Mahler & LeWitt Studios & Festival dei Due Mondi, Spoleto, Italy

2015 *MOUNTAINEER PROTOTYPE*, Art Basel Miami Beach Public Sector, Collins Park, Miami, FL, USA

PROTOTYPES, CGP London / Dilston Grove, Southwark Park, London

HYDRAULIC SCULPTURES, Cass Sculpture Foundation, Goodwood, UK

Tools of the Trade, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2013 *James Capper*, Kirkaldy Testing Museum, London, UK

JAMES CAPPER: DIVISIONS, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Yorkshire, UK

2012 *OFFSHORE*, Tim Shward Projects, London, UK

2011 *FLEET*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2010 *THE LONG WAY ROUND*, James Capper Drawings & Hand Tools, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Engineers*, Science Museum, London, UK

2022 *Raw Nerves*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

BLINK Room Share 3, Safehouse 1, London, UK

FOREVER IN THE NOW, supported by the Lightbox Gallery and museum, Woking, UK

2021 *Old Friends, New Friends*, Collective Ending HQ, London, UK

EARTH, Alma Zevi, Venice, Italy

2020 *MUDSKIPPER*, Co-commissioned in partnership with Battersea Power Station, Nine Elms on the South Bank, the Royal Docks Team and produced by Illuminate Productions, supported by Albion Barn, Arts Council England, Hannah Barry Gallery, Rothschild Foundation and Perkins Engines, with additional support from the Science Museum Group and RoDMA (Royal Docks Management Authority), Battersea Power Station Powerhouse, London, UK

(commission)

- 2019-2020 *Izolyatsia*, Kiev, Ukraine
- 2019 *ABSINTHE §1-3*, Spit and Swadust, London, UK
- 2018 *Serpentine Cinema, On Earth, Structure and Sadness*, Serpentine Galleries, Blue Frame Screening, London, UK
- The Art of Engineering*, Science Museum, London, UK
- Frieze Sculpture Park, Regent's Park, London, UK
- Contemporary Sculpture*, Fulmer, Berkshire, UK
- NGORONGORO II*, Gallery Weekend, Berlin, Germany
- Synergia*, Galeria de Arte Mexicano, Mexico City, Mexico
- Zona Maco*, Galeria de Arte Mexicano, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2017 *Soirée*, Fiery Friary, Project by Shaun McDowell, London, UK
- HYDRA STEP & HYDRA SHUFFLE II*, James Capper with Katziki, Broken Hill Regional Arts Centre, New South Wales, Australia
- SCULPTURE IN PUBLIC*, WBG London Project, Woodwork Studios, London, UK
- Through the looking glass*, Curated by James Putnam, The Mile End Art Pavilion, London, UK
- Drawing Biennial 2017*, Drawing Room, London, UK
- 2016 *Faith & Fathom*, Galleria Poggiali, Florence, Italy
- Sculptor's Drawings*, Alma Zevi, Venice, Italy
- EARTH MAKING EXPEDITION – Mobile Sculpture, Component Parts*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
- Summer Sculpture Show*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- CONTINUUM*, Vigo Gallery, London, UK
- #32 Annual open exhibition*, CGPLONDON / Dilston Grove, Southwark Park, London, UK
- What we all lack*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 *Sculpture in the Close*, Jesus College, Cambridge, UK
- HYDRA STEP / HYDRA SHUFFLE*, Underbelly Arts Festival, Cockatoo Island, Sydney, Australia
- The Mechanical Corps, On the trail of Jules Verne*, HMKV Dortmund, Germany
- GREENHORN*, Cass Sculpture Foundation, Goodwood, UK
- FIRE SALE*, Curated by Shaun McDowell, Dynamite Projects, Surrey, UK

- Propositions*, Curated by Alain Servais, Brussels, Belgium
- Doppelgänger*, Curated by Juan Bolivar and Richard Bateman, no format, London, UK
- Drawing Biennial 2015*, Drawing Room, London, UK
- Access Through Tools design festival*, London College of Communication, London, UK
- SIX STEP*, Rio dell'Orso, Venice, Italy
- WORK*, Erika Gallery, Athens, Greece
- 2014 *A Strong Affinity*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
- STEP/SHUFFLE*, Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China SAR
- Canalogy*, from Markfield Park, N15 4RB, along the canal path to Stonebridge Lock, Tottenham, UK
- 2013 *Art Britannia*, Art Basel Miami Week, Miami, FL, USA
- PeckhamNewYorkParis*, Mad Agency, Galerie 104 Kleber, Paris for Fiac, France
- ArtAngel Open 100*, UK (online)
- PeckhamNewYorkParis*, Shoot the Lobster / Martos Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2012 *20/12 London Art Now*, National Trust, Lodge Park, Cheltenham, UK
- Pertaining to things natural*, Chelsea Psychic Garden, London, UK
- This is London*, Shizaru Gallery, London, UK
- 2011 *RIPPER TEETH IN ACTION*, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, UK
- Bold Tendencies 5*, Peckham, London, UK
- TREADPAD – PAIR 1*, London Art Fair Projects, London, UK
- HYDRAULIC POWER TOOLS*, The Armory Show, New York, NY, USA
- A Skeleton in the Closet*, Heidelberger Kunstverein-Ausser Haus, Heidelberg, Germany
- A Skeleton in the Closet*, ReMap3, Athens, Greece
- 2010 *Let There Be Sculpture!*, New Art Centre, Roche Court, Wiltshire
- 2009 *The Oil Fields*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
- Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
- RIPPER*, Cass Sculpture Foundation, Goodwood, UK
- SEA LIGHT*, Drift 10, River Thames, London, UK
- 2008 *Drawings for Machines*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
- 2007 *78 Lyndhurst Way Exhibitions Project: Colour and Line*, London, UK

78 Lyndhurst Way Exhibitions Project: Monumental Painting, Sculpture and Film, London, UK

RESIDENCIES

2017 *James Capper and Katzki*, Broken Hill, Broken Hill Residency, Broken Hill, Australia

James Capper, Casa Wabi Artist Residency, Oaxaca, Mexico

Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer, Berkshire, UK

2016 *MOUNTAINEER*, Wassaic Artist Residency, Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, NY, USA

CURATORIAL WORK

2018 *ABSINTHE*, 21 Hatcham Road, London, UK

2013 *FABRICATORS*, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

AWARDS

2015 Paul Hamlyn Visual Arts Award (nominated)

South Bank Sky Arts Awards The Times Breakthrough Award (nominated)

2013 ArtAngel Open 100, UK (shortlisted)

2011 Royal Society of British Sculptors Bursay Award

2009 The Jack Goldhill Prize for Sculpture, Royal Academy of Arts

Jerwood Sculpture Prize (shortlisted)

2006 *78 Lyndhurst Way Exhibitions Project: 10 Rooms & a Sculpture Garden*, London Paul Hamlyn
Visual Arts Awards (nominated)

PUBLICATIONS

2021 *Pathways in Mobile Sculpture*, Albion Publishing

2017 *Ways to Make Mobile Sculpture*, Albion Publishing

2016 *The Imitation Game*, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

2015 *The Mechanical Corps*, On the trail of Jules Verne, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

2014 *Parts Manual*, Hato Press

Open Heart Surgery, The Moving Museum

Peckham Takeover, V&A Museum

A Change of Heart, Richard Attenborough Centre, Leicester University

- 2013 *Y E S Young English Sculptors*, Fundaziun Not Vital
London Twelve, City Gallery, Prague
- 2012 *TECTONIC*, The Moving Museum, Dubai
RIPPER TEETH IN ACTION, Modern Art Oxford
New Order: British Art Today, The Saatchi Collection
- 2008 *Drawings for Machines*, Hannah Barry Gallery
- 2007 *78 Lyndhurst Way Exhibitions Project: Bold Tendencies*

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Science Museum, London, UK