

Dan Bergeron

Bio

Dan Bergeron is a Toronto-based visual artist whose work takes the form of large-scale portraits adhered to architectural elements, functional sculptures, billboard interventions or mixed-media paintings. Blending Street Art aesthetics and a deep engagement with communities, Dan's work employs urban visual culture's immediacy to foster reflection upon issues of personal identity, social relationships and the spaces that we collectively inhabit. To that end, each project is highly site-specific: the shape and texture of a wall, the history and human uses of a location, or an individual's connection to a place dictate its content, placement, and form. While the majority of Dan's work is exhibited publicly, he also maintains a studio practice that forms the basis of his public art and gallery exhibitions.

Dan's interest in creating public art stems from his experiences skateboarding and his early exposure to graffiti culture. Growing up skateboarding, Dan learned to see the city as a place of possibilities and playful interaction. Stairs, banks, handrails, ledges, curbs, cracks in the sidewalk and almost any surface that his board could navigate became the building blocks for fun and creativity. This view of the city, combined with his early introduction to graffiti through friends who practiced it, inspired Dan to create work that interacted with the urban environment. As he was interested in photography and portraiture specifically, Dan decided to take a different path and create work that focused on issues of representation and identity.

Over the course of his career, Dan has completed commissions for the Art Gallery of Ontario and MOCCA, he has been a featured artist for the Contact Photography Festival in concert with the Royal Ontario Museum and was artist in residence for the Luminato Festival in 2012. Dan has also created installation works and projects for commercial clients such as Vespa, Red Bull, Nike and Adidas. He has received grants from the Toronto, Ontario and Canada Arts Councils and was awarded the prestigious Chalmers Fellowship from the OAC in 2012. Currently, Dan is completing his first permanent public art project, Faces of Regent Park, which was commissioned by the City Of Toronto and is slated for installation in the Spring of 2015 as part of Toronto's Regent Park Revitalization Project.