

Public Setting

Dave Hardy

Aug 9
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Image: [left] A rock unearthed by Hardy's father who is also an artist using a manual jack, and [right] Hardy's *That a Dead Man Sings* (2014), polyurethane foam, glass, cement, ink, wood, dimensions variable. Photos by Dave Hardy

This exhibition is curated by Alessandra Gomez, independent curator, and coordinated with Sophia Marisa Lucas, Assistant Curator, Queens Museum.

The satellite gallery program at the Bulova Corporate Center is sponsored by the Blumenfeld Development Group and LaGuardia Corporate Center Associates. Since 1990, the Queens Museum has partnered with the Blumenfeld Development Group to energize the Bulova Corporate Center by presenting arts exhibitions and projects. The works of individual artists or groups of artists are presented in two exhibitions each year.

**Queens Museum at
Bulova Corporate Center**
75-20 Astoria Boulevard
Jackson Heights, NY 11370

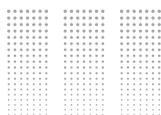
Gallery Hours
Monday – Friday, 7am – 7pm
Saturday – Sunday, 10am – 4pm

Established in 1953, the Bulova Corporate Center's historic Art Deco building was erected as the world headquarters and manufacturing facility for the Bulova watch company. Re-modeled in 1985, the building boasts a sky-lit atrium, three glass elevators, granite floors, and a central waterfall surrounded by foliage. These features share qualities with Dave Hardy's sculptures, in which the artist manipulates disparate, salvaged construction materials in an accumulation of tension: concrete slabs slump over elongated strips of glass, and polyurethane foam is punctured by a sharpened edge. At the same time, these reclaimed building elements—removed from their common purpose as capital goods—hint at a refusal of industry promoted by corporate spaces, factories and other businesses. Cognizant of this contrast, Hardy's work is centrally situated in the Queens Museum's gallery, surrounded by its crystalline glass offices.

Polyurethane foam, with its ability to absorb weight and withstand compression, is most often used as a filler for car seats, upholstered furniture, and mattresses, to support the human body. But as mutated by Hardy, the foam is solidified into forms and gestures burdened by the additional weight of concrete, so that it signifies something between the body and its inanimate support. In *Swan*, 2014, a piece of concrete-infused foam rests against an ornate swan-engraved shower door. Both comical and coy, the figure-like grey slab doubles as a draped towel. In *Untitled*, 2013, and *Destiny*, 2014, two thin rectangular panes of glass rest upright against a wall, mimicking a set of limbs. The human form is enacted through posture—the materials lean, bend, wilt, twist in space.

Hardy has also infiltrated the Center beyond the gallery space. *That a Dead Man Sings*, 2014, has been installed in front of a teller's desk inside of a vacant office space once belonging to a bank. An architectonic floor-to-ceiling sculpture, the work reads more like a representation of an endless column than an anthropomorphic form, as it stands segmented, tenuously composed, and surrounded by the residue of capitalist infrastructure and corporate aesthetic; the hours of the bank are still listed on the door, and the exterior glass is lined with a white pixelated pattern. Meanwhile, in the South Entrance, a series of conjoined, wall-mounted phone booths, stripped of their obsolete payphones, serve as a literal framework for Hardy's pieces. These fleshy, abject forms contrast with the stainless steel compartments and meld into the architecture they inhabit.

Dave Hardy (b. 1969, Sharon, CT) received his MFA from The Yale School of Art in 2004, his BA from Brown University in 1992, and studied at The Skowhegan School of Painting. He has exhibited in group shows including *Make it Now: New Sculpture in New York* (The Sculpture Center, NY, 2005), *Greater New York* (MoMA PS1, NY, 2005), and *Un Balance* (Jack Shainman Gallery, NY, 2008). He has been featured in solo exhibitions at Churner and Churner, NY; Regina Rex, NY; Wentrup Gallery, Berlin; and most recently Skibum MacArthur, Los Angeles. Hardy lives and works in New York.



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