

What is your name?

Mason Dowling

Why do you make art?

It beats the alternative.

When did you realize you were an artist or wanted to participate in creating art?

For me it was more a realization that I had been creatively interacting with the world for a long time before I studied art.

How would you define art?

A vastly diverse range of objects and practices presented in ways which encourage subjective experience and interpretation. Art is whatever anyone needs it to be.

How do you start off when creating art? With a sketch or something different?

Painting affords a ready-made starting place. Often, starting one piece helps finish another.

What inspired the artwork(s) you submitted for this exhibition?

As much as possible, I try to let each painting's particular situation and needs determine its final form.

Who is your artwork for? Do you have an audience? Or do you aim to create art for a specific audience?

My paintings are essentially tools for looking. Their meaning is found by experiencing them, and, as it is nonverbal, is available to all.

How would you define the difference between your private artwork and public artwork?

I see this question as it relates to two very different aspects of practice. The first is my own editorial power over which works I decide are finished (ie: the ones I choose to share with the public). In this sense my studio is the threshold which must be crossed for work to become public. The other relates to public artwork in general, which I do not make, but have much respect for. This work is situated in public, where people live their lives around it and thus have ownership of the work through its background relationship to their lives.

What do you consider private, as part of an artistic practice?

The music we listen to as we work, the way we touch our own work.

What do you consider public, as part of an artistic practice?

Social media (of any kind).

In your opinion how does an artist's personal life affect their art practices?

I think that separation between parts of one's life is mostly illusory, and sometimes useful.

What is something private about your process you are willing to share?

A secret is not a secret once you share it.

How does today's current disconnect between personal life and workspace influence your art making?

My studio is both my workplace and an important part of my private life.

Do you think it's possible for people to be truly private?

Short answer: if you can afford it. I think that possibility of any kind in America is largely determined by wealth. Privacy, in capitalism, is both privilege and commodity.