

**Morgan Sims**  
**Artist Statement**  
**"Metropolis"**

My current paintings start as sketchbook concepts with only a rough idea of what they will look like when they are done. The stretchers are built according to geometry and my lines and color are achieved through the adjoining and layering of transparent washes. This approach is process-oriented, whereby I setup a series of decisions on how I will progress through a painting, but I almost always end up changing directions and experimenting with new techniques. My favorite paintings usually turn out differently than I expect them to. These paintings have evolved materially and formally from my previous paintings and work with neon. They are both illusionistic/optical and object-like.

I find motivation in the art environment of Chicago. A city with a rich history in architecture, design, art and art movements, I participate in and identify with other contemporary artists who seek personal expression via making, exhibiting, collaborating and/or curating work. I am a hands-on artist and take great pride in learning how to do something from scratch. From bending glass, to screen printing t-shirts, to building functional objects, my studio practice is sometimes work-for-hire, but largely devoted to the fine art practice.

Teaching adjunct at colleges, teaching workshops at printmaking studios, and working part time at Wright Auctions (where I am exposed to many important artists and designers and get to see in-person their well known and lesser known works) all feeds into the work I create in the studio.

# Morgan Sims

## Resume

### Education

Master of Fine Arts, 2010, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI  
Master of Arts, 2009, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2004, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

### Solo Exhibitions

2015

Metropolis, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL

2014

Clair E. Smith Gallery, Barrington High School, Barrington, IL

Intimation, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Evanston, IL

Far-Out, Saki Records, Chicago, IL

2013

New Paintings and Neon, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL

2010

The Closer You Get, MFA exhibition, UW Madison, Madison, WI

2009

Spectacular Spectacular, MA Exhibition, Madison, WI

2007

The Early Years, Joe Bar, Seattle, WA

2006

Print Zero Studios, Seattle, WA

### Group Exhibitions

2015

Tip Your Delivery Boy, Saki Records, Chicago, IL

Keep Your Mind in Hell and Despair Not, Terraformer, Chicago, IL

2014

Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival, Chicago, IL

Spotlight, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL

2013

Cohesion, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL

Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival, Chicago, IL

Graveyard, Terraformer, Chicago, IL

Monuments and Ruins, Frogman Gallery, Chicago, IL

The Ice Box Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Unconventional Narratives, The Art Museum, SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, NY

Thinking of You, The Tight Ship Series at Octagon Gallery, Chicago, IL

2012

Meltdown, Octagon Gallery, MDW Fair, Chicago, IL

Heaven Gallery, MDW Fair, Chicago, IL

Too Much is Never Enough, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL

Second Day Scenery, Azimuth Pop Up Gallery, Chicago, IL

12th Year Anniversary Show, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL

Space Vulture Worship Project, Happy Dog Gallery, Chicago, IL

Circa 1970, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL  
Reality Slips, Robert Bills Contemporary, Chicago, IL  
Drawn With a Knife, Morpho Gallery, Chicago, IL  
Society of the Spectacular, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL  
2011  
Camp, Octagon Gallery, Chicago, IL  
Open Studio Extravaganza, Chicago, IL  
Generous Beast, Forte Framing and Gallery, Chicago, IL  
Double Trouble, Milk Factory Gallery, Chicago, IL  
Pratt Gallery, Tashiro Kaplan Building, Seattle, WA  
2010  
Packer Schopf Gallery, Chicago, IL  
Kick-off Exhibition, The Milk Factory, Chicago, IL  
Put Away Your Childish Things, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI  
Forward: UW Madison Graduate Exhibition, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL  
Home Sweet Home, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI  
2009  
Satisfaction Town, Southern Graphics Conference, Chicago, IL  
2008  
Fresh Hot Press, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI  
2007  
People + Place, Seattle Portable Works, Municipal Tower Gallery, Seattle, WA  
Emerging Student Exhibition, D'Adomo/Woltz Gallery, Seattle, WA  
Ink and Clay 33, Cal State Poly Technic University; Pomona, CA  
2006  
Forgotten Works Challenge, OK Hotel, Seattle, WA  
Northwest Fine Arts Competition, Phinney Center Gallery, Seattle, WA

### **Selected Public Collections**

Neiman Marcus  
BMO Harris  
Seattle Portable Works

### **Teaching**

2015  
Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL  
Spudnik Press, Chicago, IL  
Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL  
Chicago Printmakers Collaborative, Chicago, IL  
2014  
Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL  
Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL  
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA  
Spudnik Press, Chicago, IL  
2013  
Harold Washington College, Chicago, IL  
Plate Lithography, Spudnik Press, Chicago, IL  
2012  
University of Wisconsin, Sheboygan, WI

Etching, Anchor Graphics, Chicago, IL  
Plate Lithography and Photo Plate Lithography, Spudnik Press, Chicago, IL  
Aluminum Plate Lithography, Spudnik Press, Chicago, IL

2011

University of Wisconsin, Sheboygan, WI  
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA  
Vitreography Workshop, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle, WA

2010

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI  
Painterly Screen Print, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle, WA  
Screen Printing, High School People Program, Madison, WI

2009

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI  
Vitreography and AIR Master Printer, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA

2008

Low-tech Photographic Printmaking, Pratt Fine Arts Center  
Vitreography and AIR Master Printer, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA

2007

Low-tech Photographic Printmaking, Pratt Fine Arts Center  
Vitreography and AIR Master Printer, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA

### **Bibliography**

2013

Art Ltd. Magazine, Morgan Sims: Paintings and Neon at Bert Green Fine Art  
New City Art Chicago, Portrait of the Artist: Morgan Sims  
Monarch Daily, Abstractions with Light and Paint: An Interview with Morgan Sims  
50/50 Survey of Contemporary Printmaking, Print Zero Studios

### **Awards**

2007

Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, King County, Seattle, WA, Purchase Award