

## Dan Gottlieb

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**Dan Gottlieb's studio practice** is photo-generated work that investigates the boundaries of environmental and human dislocation. Having spent forty years creating cultural spaces and environments for art in the public realm, I now focus my creative life on personal perspectives that convey a subjective, often "blurry" aesthetic to depict nature and the human condition, sometimes void of edges or boundaries. Visual ambiguity and mystery are core to my picture-making, as are a deep interest in environmental sciences and material process of picture making.

**Season Five** and **Forest Portraits** are ongoing multi-year series that explore forest environments and climate-induced wildfire - their impacts on fragile ecosystems and human settlement. The project began while recuperating from a potentially fatal incident, with daily forest walks. In recovery, I learned again (this time digitally) how to use a camera as an extension of my vision, my body, and my breath to capture nature's constant motion – a familiar way of seeing nature and cityscapes alike.

A student of both art and biology plus my early museum design work for a natural history museum gave me a solid foundation for my current direction. In 2021 I trekked the enormous devastation of the Sequoia and KNP complex fires and returned for a 2022 residency with UC Berkley climate scientists at a field station, where I explored Northern Sierra Nevada wildfire sites to better understand global changes we collectively experience.

**Walkers of the World** is a related series of portraits of people in motion. As the forest is fluid, yet earth-bound, we walk the world as a blur through time and space. The universal nature of walking stitches histories and culture.

**Picture making process** is of my own design, using non-traditional materials and with laborious effort. Long camera exposures are processed, digitally reversed, and printed on clear acrylic panels. I then apply foundational layers of paint behind the image to provide luminosity before hand-polishing the surface with fine compounds.

**Education:** An autodidact who overcame childhood hearing and learning disabilities, my (unlikely) university education was in art and biology (SUNY Buffalo), furniture design and photography (San Diego State University), and arts administration (Winthrop University). But my real education is self-taught through decades of collaboration in environmental design and architecture and on by ongoing photographic experimentation.

Born in New York City, Dan lives in Durham, NC.

### Selected recent and upcoming exhibitions and projects

- 2024, upcoming solo exhibition (February), Craven Allen Gallery, Durham, NC
- 2023, 30 x30: Art, Nature and Science, Museum of Life and Science, North Carolina
- 2023, upcoming exhibition (October) FRANK Gallery, Chapel Hill
- 2022, Artist Residency, UC Berkely Sagehen Field Research Station. *Season Five* project.
- 2022, CLICK! Photography Festival, FRANK Gallery, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2022, Solo exhibition: *Season Five*, Craven Allen Gallery, Durham, NC
- 2022, Group exhibition: The Landscape Foundation
- 2022, Group exhibition: Durham Art Guild
- 2022, Group exhibition: *Talent Within*, North Carolina Museum of Art
- 2019, Solo exhibition: *Dan Gottlieb*: Craven Allen Gallery, Durham, NC
- 2017, Solo exhibition: *Dan Gottlieb*: Craven Allen Gallery, Durham, NC
- 2015, Solo exhibition: *Dan Gottlieb*: Craven Allen Gallery, Durham, NC
- 2012, Solo exhibition, Horace Williams House, Chapel Hill, NC
- 2011, Solo exhibition: Reynolds Gallery, Asheville, NC

**Museum designer:** As the North Carolina Museum of Art's Director of Planning, Design & Museum Park (1990-2020), Dan initiated and led the radical transformation of a former prison site to the creation of the Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park. He directed the development of its renowned West Building and is nationally recognized for opening the Museum to cultural inclusion and environmental sustainability with a multifaceted design process.

#### **Exhibitions organized**

- *Imperfect Utopia: A Park for the New World*, North Carolina Museum of Art
- *West Building and the Architecture of Light*, North Carolina Museum of Art
- *Ramesses the Great, Mint Museum of Art*
- *Imogen Cunningham: Plant Forms*, San Diego Natural History Museum
- *Experiments in Nature*, San Diego Natural History Museum

#### **Selected projects**

- NCMA's 127,000 sf West Building (Thomas Phifer, architect), 2010 National AIA Honor Award.
- *PICTURE THIS*, amphitheater, artist Barbara Kruger, architects Smith-Miller + Hawkinson, Nicholas Quennell
- NCMA Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park. (Various artist and design collaborations)

#### **Individual awards and honors**

- 2018 Inducted into the American Society of Landscape Architects
- 2018 *Innovator of the Year Award*, North Carolina Green Industries Council
- 2017 *Lifetime Achievement Award*, North Carolina State University College of Design
- 2011 Award of Excellence, North Carolina State University, College of Design
- 2010 New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects Honor Award West Building
- 2010 *Tarheel of the Week, Leading the NCMA expansion and art and environment*
- 1994 *Order of the Long Leaf Pine* (Governor's highest citizen honor for distinguished service)

#### **Collaborative awards**

- 2017 American Society of Landscape Architecture *National* Honor Award
- 2017 Urban Land Institute Award of Excellence Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park
- 2017 Sir Walter Raleigh Jury's Choice Award Ann and Jim Goodnight Museum Park
- 2016 *Architectural Record*, West Building, Best 125 buildings in 125 years
- 2011 Sir Walter Raleigh Award, Sustainable Design
- 2010 ArchDaily *Building of the Year*, West Building
- 2010 American Institute of Architects *National Honor Award*, West Building, Thomas Phifer, architect
- 2010 Triangle Business Journal: Green Award
- 2010 ASHRAE Technology Award Performance Energy Project (energy reduction)
- 2008 ASLA, Award of Excellence Park Master Plan
- 2008, 2009, 2010 AIA / NCAIA *Art-as Shelter* series - Museum Park
- 2005 USDOT National Design Award: Environmental Design, Pedestrian Bridge
- 1997 United States Institute for Theater Technology, Architecture Award, Amphitheater
- 1996 AIA / NYC Chapter, Amphitheater (Kruger, Smith-Miller + Hawkinson), Barbara Kruger, artist

#### **Publications | presentations**

*Fostering Universal Ethics in Museums: A Summit with the Dalai Lama*, Dharamshala, India, 2018  
*Contemporary Museum Design: Practice and Theory* (chapter) *Design for Citizenship* 2018  
*Extroverting the Museum: American Alliance of Museums*, Philadelphia, and Sydney Australia, 2018  
*Sustainable Museums: Strategies for the 21st Century*, 2011  
*Conservation, Aesthetics and Daylight*, Building Museums Conference, San Francisco, 2012  
*Landscapes for Art: Contemporary Sculpture Parks* (chapter) *Planning a Sculpture Park*, 2008