

Mark Dion

Biography

Since the early 1990s, Mark Dion has examined the ways in which dominant ideologies and public institutions shape our understanding of history, knowledge, and the natural world. Appropriating archaeological and other scientific methods of collecting, ordering, and exhibiting objects, the artist creates works that address distinctions between objective scientific methods and subjective influences. By locating the roots of environmental politics and public policy in the construction of knowledge about nature, Dion questions the authoritative role of the scientific voice in contemporary society.

Born in Massachusetts in 1961, Dion currently lives in New York City. He received a BFA and an honorary doctorate from the University of Hartford School of Art, Connecticut in 1986 and 2003, respectively. He also studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York from 1982-84, and participated in the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program from 1984-85. He has received numerous awards, including the ninth annual Larry Aldrich Foundation Award (2001) and the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Lucida Art Award (2008).

Throughout the past two decades, his work has been the subject of major exhibitions worldwide. Notable solo exhibitions include *Mark Dion: The Academy of Things* at The Academy of Fine Arts Design in Dresden, Germany (2014), *The Macabre Treasury* at Museum Het Domein in Sittard, The Netherlands (2013), *Oceanomania: Souvenirs of Mysterious Seas* at Musée Océanographique de Monaco and Nouveau Musée National de Monaco / Villa Paloma in Monaco (2011), *The Marvelous Museum: A Mark Dion Project* at Oakland Museum of California (2010-11), *Systema Metropolis* at Natural History Museum, London (2007), *The South Florida Wildlife Rescue Unit* at Miami Art Museum (2006), *Rescue Archaeology*, a project for the Museum of Modern Art (2004), and his renowned *Tate Thames Dig* at the Tate Gallery in London (1999).

In 2012, his work was included in dOCUMENTA 13, curated by Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev in Kassel, Germany, and has also been exhibited at MoMA PS1 in New York, Guggenheim Bilbao in Spain, Minneapolis Institute of Art in Minnesota, Arp Museum Bahnhof Rolandseck in Remagen, Germany, and Kunsthau Graz in Austria.

The artist has also completed numerous public commissions during his career, which include *Den*, a site-specific installation for the National Tourist Routes in Norway (2012), *An Archaeology of Knowledge* for John Hopkins University (2012), and *Ship in a Bottle* for Port of Los Angeles Waterfront (2011).

His work can be found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Tate Gallery, London, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Museum of Modern Art in New York, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, Hamburger Kunsthalle in Germany, Harvard University Art Museums in Massachusetts, and the Israel Museum of Art in Jerusalem, among others.

Presently, he is a mentor at Columbia University in New York and co-director of Mildred's Land, an innovative visual art education and residency program in Beach Lake, Pennsylvania. He lives with his wife, the artist Dana Sherwood in New York City and works worldwide.