

# SHAWN MAYER



# *Preteen Visions and Rituals*

## *\*As Recalled by a Full Grown Adult*

### Artist Statement

*"When I became a man I put away childish things, including the fear of childishness and the desire to be very grown up" C. S. Lewis, On Three Ways of Writing for Children (1976).*

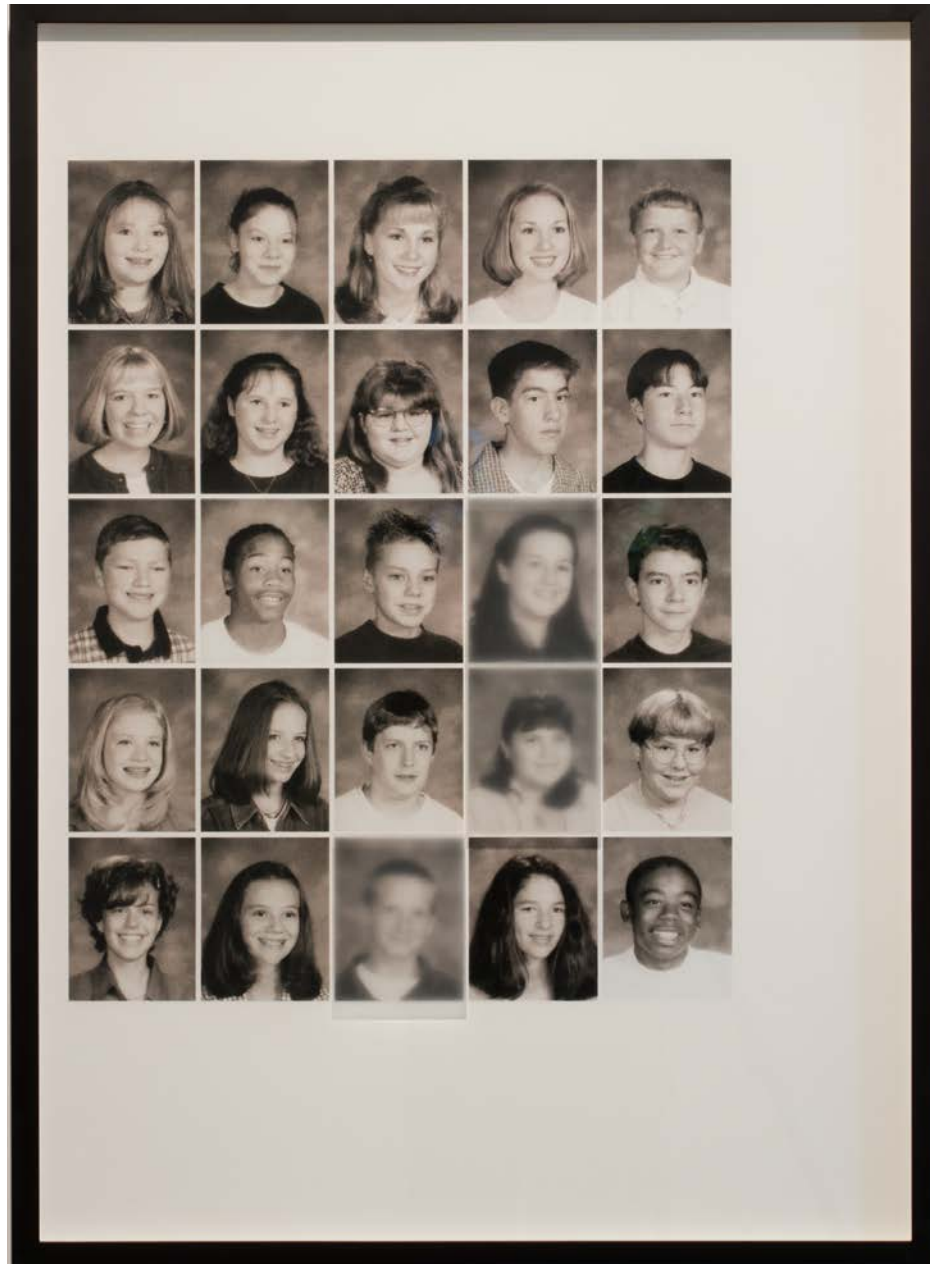
*Undisclosed Visions and Preteen Rituals is a collection of photographic/video installations and found object sculptures. The work includes robotic upside-down Christmas trees, distorted yearbook photos, and Childcraft encyclopedias whose purpose is to recapture the unabashed wonder and confidence of pre-adolescent expression.*

*The loss of ignorance and ultimately innocence, whether it is through academics or life experiences, can strip away the veneer of childhood leaving self-doubt and an overcritical nature. Also lost is a way of seeing, that is unfortunately derided by adults as immature and foolish. Grown individuals may blush at the mere accusation of being called childish, and as a result reject the opportunity to express themselves in any artistic form whatsoever. To draw a stick figure is unrefined. To hum a nonsensical tune is simply beyond the pale. It is no surprise why anyone would refuse the title of artist. The word is steeped in grownup expectation.*

*This exhibition was created as a way to reconnect with and contemplate on that pre-educational aesthetic; one that is heavily influenced by childhood rituals and imaginative play. This is a type of expression that is in many cases not intended for an audience beyond oneself. It is free of self-censorship and full of inner exploration.*

*It is true, though, that one cannot go home again, and these pieces are made from the perspective of an adult looking back, not necessarily with nostalgia, but a sense of sincere appreciation.*

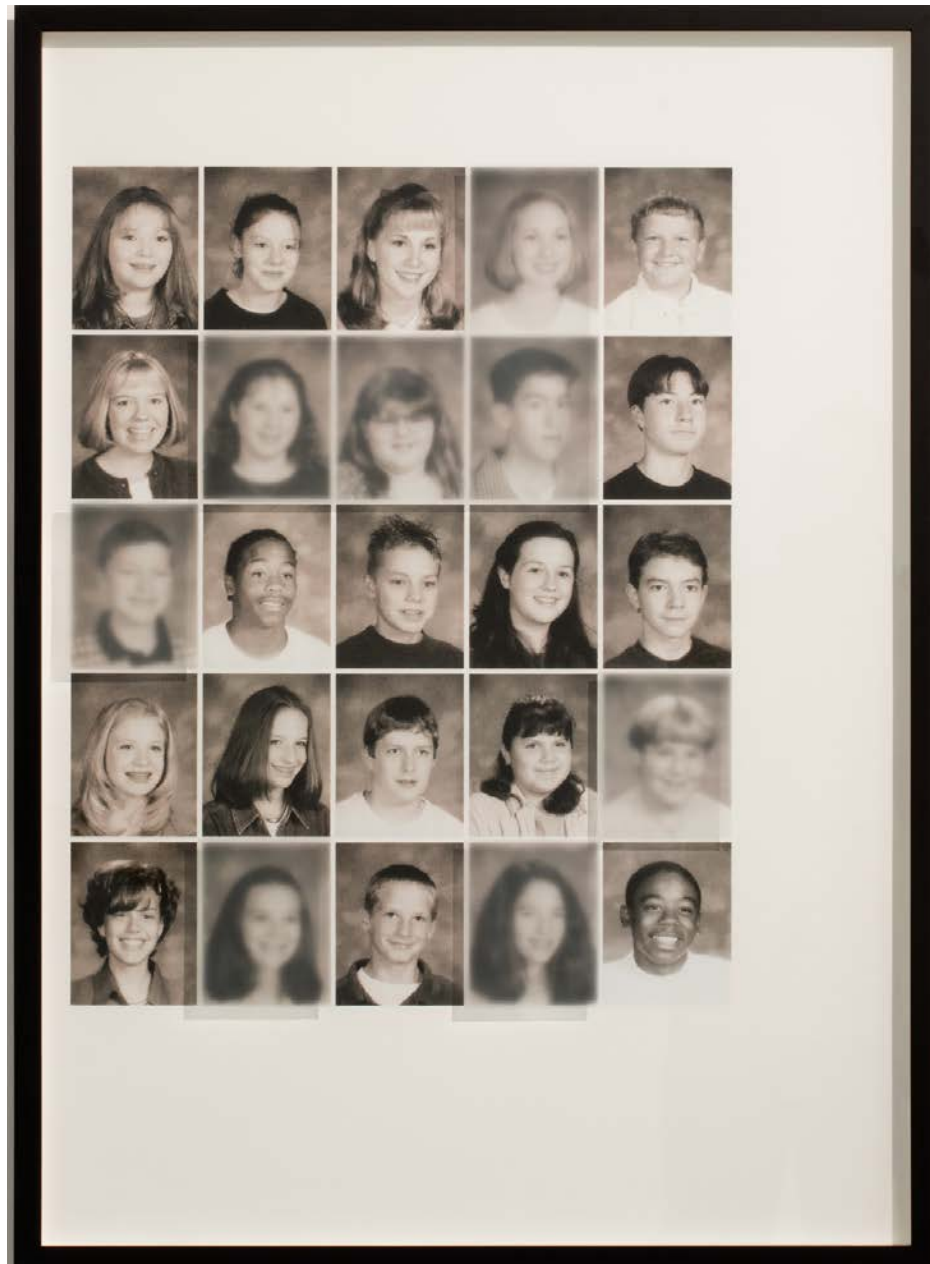
- Shawn Mayer



*Fade In, Fade Out #1*  
2016. Inkjet print under  
frosted glass.  
25" x 1" x 34"



*Fade In, Fade Out #2*  
2016. Inkjet print under  
frosted glass.  
25" x 1" x 34"



*Fade In, Fade Out #3*  
2016. Inkjet print under  
frosted glass.  
25" x 1" x 34"

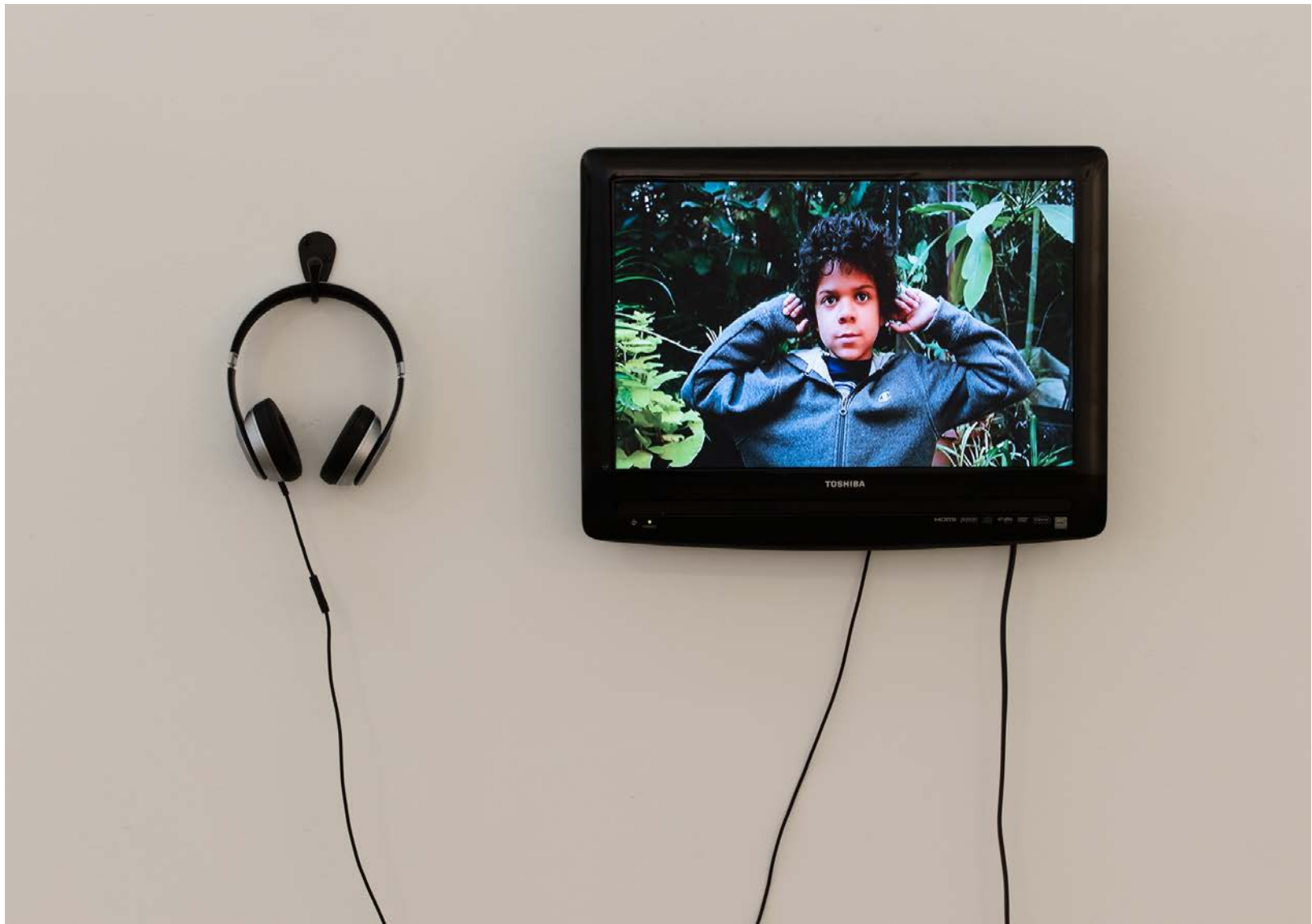


***Fade In, Fade Out #4***  
2016. Inkjet print under frosted  
glass.  
25" x 1" x 34"





*An Imaginary Friend*  
2016. Inkjet print.  
Edition 1/5.  
40" x 26"¼

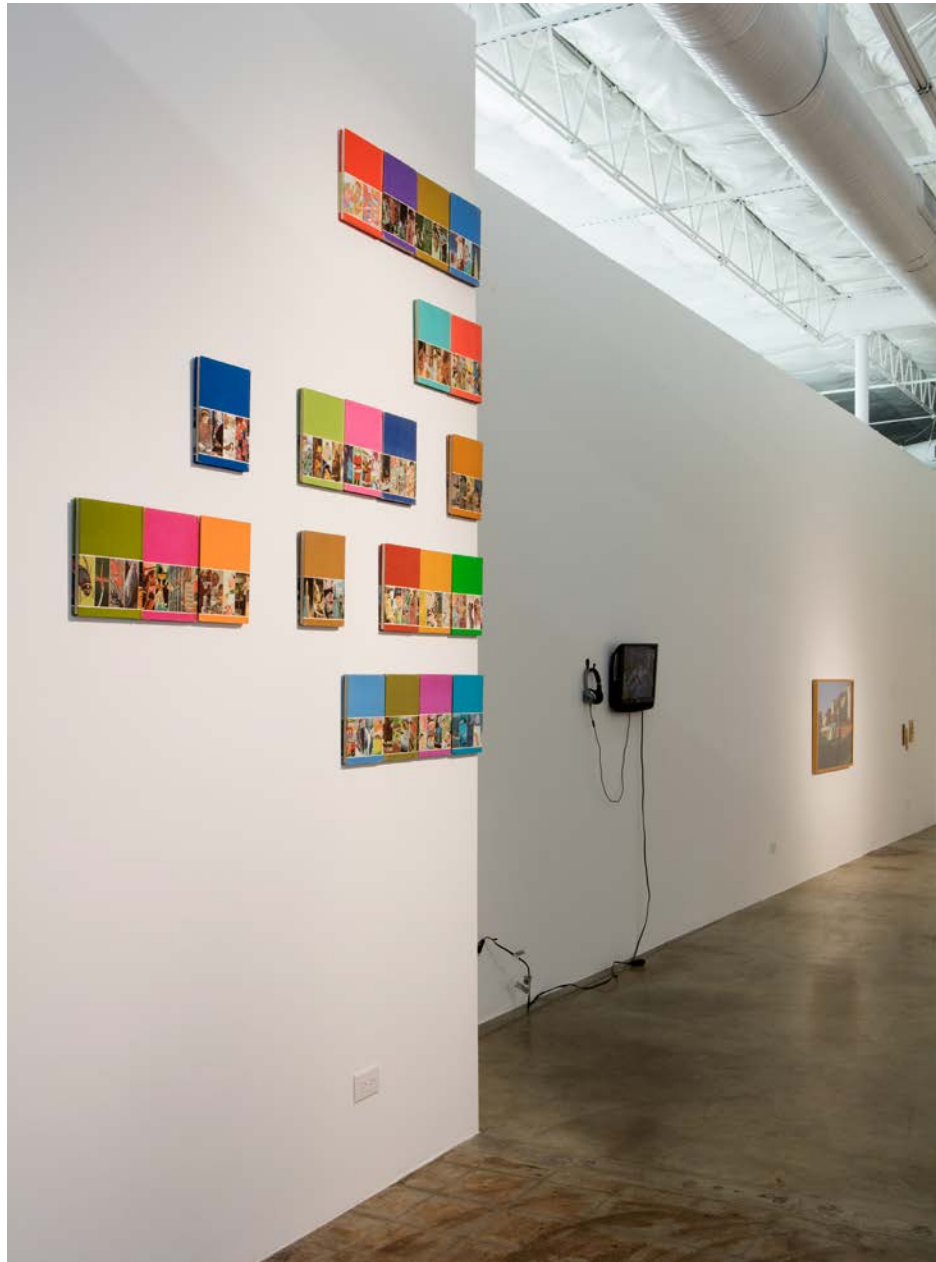


*Inner Ear*  
2016  
Looping Video  
2min, 4sec





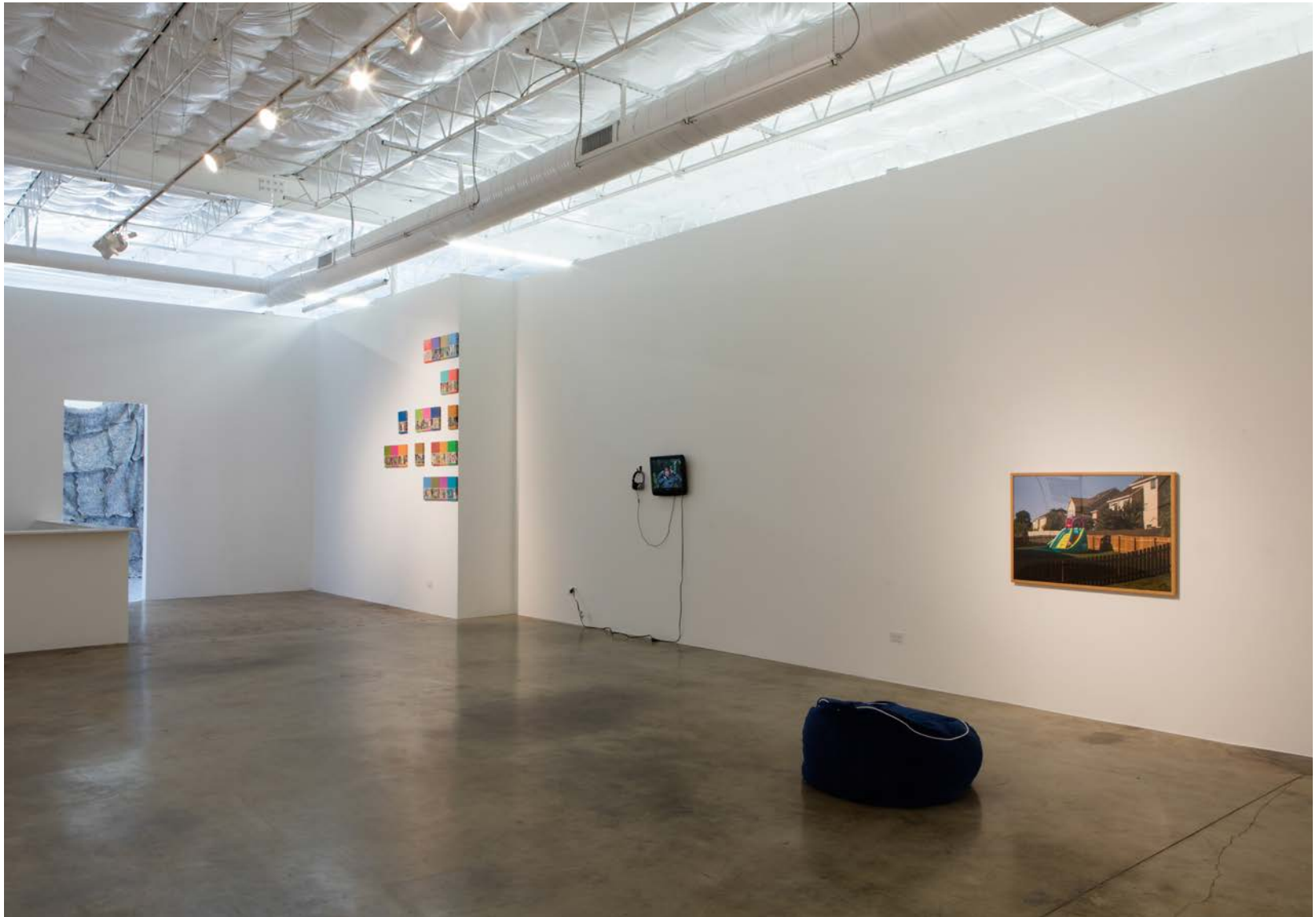
***Dreamcycles #1 - #3***  
2016. Tinsel Christmas trees,  
fish line and wood  
Installation- 114 x 18 x 6



*The Greatest Story Ever Told*  
2016  
Bound child craft encyclopedias  
69 x 70"



*Preteen Visions and Rituals instalation view*



*Preteen Visions and Rituals instalation view*

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Shawn Mayer completed his MFA in Arts and Technology at the University of Texas at Dallas in spring 2014 and holds a BA in Music and a BFA in Drawing from the University of Missouri (2008). He has worked in animation, production and postproduction for television and commercial programming. His work aims to bridge the gap between physical, traditional and technological media, combining them with immersive and interactive elements to create new and unconventional art. His areas of focus include online media, emergent play and folk practices displayed in gallery spaces to create unexpected experiences. Shawn was accepted as a resident at CentralTrak: the UT Dallas artists' residency in 2013. His work has been shown at the Lawndale Art Center, the Houston Art League, CentralTrak, RO2 Art, 5oox Gallery, and Deep Ellum Windows. His work is currently being represented by the Liliana Bloch Gallery in Dallas, Texas.



# CV

## Education:

M.F.A., Arts and Technology

(May 2013) University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX

B.F.A., Drawing

(December 2008) University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

B.A., Music

(December 2008) University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 2014 2014

Undisclosed Visions and Pre-teen Rituals \*As Recalled by a Full Grown Adult. Liliana Bloch Gallery, Dallas TX. If You REALLY Want to Know. CentralTrak, Dallas, TX Just Can't Help But.

Deep Ellum Windows, Dallas, TX.

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016 Drawing Quote Unquote. UTD Arts and Technology Gallery, Dallas TX

2016 BeeFlix. Beefhaus, Dallas TX. 2015 co | action. 500x, Dallas TX. 2015 And They Pa-

pered The Walls. Liliana Bloch Gallery, Dallas TX. 2015 Rapid Artists. Rapid Convention.

Long Beach, CA..

2015 Who's Afraid of Chuck and George? CentralTrak, Dallas, TX.

2015 Bird Art: The Artist's Eye View of Birds. Bath House Cultural Center, Dallas TX.

2014 Domestic Partnership. Liliana Bloch Gallery, Dallas TX.

2014 Chaos!. RO2 Art, Dallas, TX. 2014 Hot and Sweaty 3: The Open Show. 500x. Dallas,

TX. 2014 Residency Exchange. Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX. 2014 The Paintings of

\*George W Bush. CentralTrak, Dallas, TX. 2014 The Function Of Attention. Houston Art

League, Houston, TX. 2013 CentralTrak Open Studios. CentralTrak, Dallas, TX. 2013 Video

Group Exhibition Fundraiser. The Dallas Contemporary,

Dallas, TX.

2008 Game Over. Continue?. University Of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

2008 Undergraduate Juried Art Excellence. University Of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

2007 Undergraduate Juried Art Excellence. University Of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

2007 Casual Orchestration. True/False Film Festival, Columbia, MO.

## SELECTED PERFORMANCES

2009 InThis Hid Clearing... University of Missouri Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Naxos Records, Columbia, MO.

2008 MU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble, International Tuba Euphonium Conference, Cincinnati, OH.

2008 MU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble, International Tuba Euphonium Conference, Cincinnati, OH.

2008 MU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble, Missouri Music Educators Association Convention, Osage Beach, MO.

2008 MMTA Collegiate Upper Division Competition. Missouri State University, Springfield, MO.

2007 Senior Recital. University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

2007 MU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble, Mid-South Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference, Memphis, TN.

2007 MMTA Collegiate Upper Division Competition. William Jewell College, Liberty, MO.

2007 Euphonium Duet Recital. University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

2006 MU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble International Tuba Euphonium Conference Denver, CO.

#### LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

2014 Guest Lecturer. Artist Work Kyle Kondas' Graduate Digital Media course. University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX.

2014 Guest Lecturer. Appropriation and the Animated GIF Sally Glass' Digital Imaging course. University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX.

2014 Guest Lecturer. Digital Playgrounds Dr. Evans' Issues in Games course. University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX.

2013 Presenter and Panelist. Take One Down and Pass it Around: Modern Folk Gaming Practices RAW Symposium. University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX.

2012 Presenter and Panelist. Ratings Exchange: A New Currency Flow Conference.

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2271 Monitor St • Dallas, TX 75207 • 214.991.5617  
[lilianablochgallery.com](http://lilianablochgallery.com)