

JAMES CAPPER

b. 1987, London, UK. Lives and works in London, UK.

James Capper makes mobile sculpture and sculptural tools for use in varied terrains, adopting the techniques, materials and complex problem-solving processes of engineering and invention. Taking inspiration from the organic world of natural history and evolution, Capper's approach consists of three distinct but interrelated processes - drawing, making sculpture and the application of the sculpture in action. His sculptural language evolves along different modular chains he terms 'Divisions' - a network of interrelated sculpture families each grouped according to specialised application. Varying in size from the handheld to the monumental, Capper's sculptures occupy their habitats like a system of machinic organisms, evolving and migrating from one ecosystem to another, their nomadic lives anchored in a distinct aesthetic iconography.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024

MONITOR, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
CURVE-BASED SYNTAX, Albion Jeune, London, UK

2023

CAMELLIA, Gallery Town, Rotherham, UK (commission)

2022

JAMES CAPPER: HYDRALINER & THE LINEAR PAINTINGS, Albion Barn, Oxford, UK
ROTARY PAINTINGS & HYDRA PAINTER, Alex Eagle Studio, London, UK

2021

JAMES CAPPER - PROTOTYPES OF SPECULATIVE ENGINEERING, MONA, Tasmania, AU
JAMES CAPPER: ROTARY PAINTINGS & HYDRA PAINTER, Albion Barn, Oxford, UK

2020

MUDSKIPPER, Battersea Power Station, Nine Elms on the South Bank, and the Royal Docks London, UK (commission)

2019

AEROCAB, 3-D Foundation, Verbier, CH (commission)

2018

WAYS TO MAKE A SHIP WALK, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2017

James Capper, Mark Maker, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst, AU
DRAWING MACHINES, Broken Hill Regional Arts Centre, New South Wales, AU
WAYS TO MAKE MOBILE SCULPTURE, Albion Barn, Oxford, UK
SCULPTURE & HYDRAULICS, The Edge & Andrew Brownsword Gallery, University of Bath, Bath, UK

2016

EARTH MARKING EXPEDITION – Mobile Sculpture, Component Parts, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

PORTA CARVE, Vigo Gallery, London, UK

ATLAS A SPOLETO! / TELESTEP A SPOLETO!, Anna Mahler Association project for the Mahler & LeWitt Studios & Festival dei Due Mondi, Spoleto, IT

James Capper, Art in Romney Marsh, Kent, UK

2015

GREENHORN, Cass Sculpture Foundation, Goodwood, Chichester, UK (commission)

HYDRA STEP / HYDRA SHUFFLE, Underbelly Arts Festival, Cockatoo Island, Sydney, AU

PROTOTYPES, CGP LONDON / Dilston Grove, Southwark Park, London, UK

SIX STEP, Rio dell'Orso, Venice, IT (commission)

HYDRAULIC SCULPTURES, Cass Sculpture Foundation, Goodwood, Chichester, UK

MOUNTAINEER, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, US

Tools of the Trade, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2013

James Capper, Kirkaldy Testing Museum, London, UK

JAMES CAPPER: DIVISIONS, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Yorkshire, UK

OFFSHORE, Tim Seward Projects, London, UK

2011

FLEET, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

RIPPER TEETH IN ACTION, Modern Art Oxford, Oxford, UK

TREADPAD – PAIR 1, London Art Fair Projects, London, UK

2010

THE LONG WAY ROUND, James Capper Drawings & Hand Tools, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2009

RIPPER, Cass Sculpture Foundation, Goodwood, Chichester, UK

Drawings for Machines, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

LAS Begins, LAS Gallery, London, UK

2024

Summer Exhibition, curated by Assemble, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

2022

Raw Nerves, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

BLINK Room Share 3, Safehouse 1, London, UK

FOREVER IN THE NOW, supported by the Lightbox Gallery and Museum, Woking, UK

2021

Old Friends, New Friends, Collective Ending HQ, London, UK

Albion Fields Sculpture Park, Albion Barn, Oxford, UK
EARTH, Alma Zevi, Venice, IT

2019

ABSINTHE §1 - 3, Spit and Sawdust, London, UK

2018

Serpentine Cinema, On Earth, Structure and Sadness, Serpentine Galleries, London, UK

The Art of Engineering, Science Museum, London, UK

Frieze Sculpture, Regent's Park, London, UK

Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer, Berkshire, UK

ABSINTHE, 21 Hatcham Road, London, UK (curator)

NGORONGORO II, Gallery Weekend, Berlin, DE

Synergia, Galería de Arte Mexicano, Mexico City, MX

Zona Maco, Galería de Arte Mexicano, Mexico City, MX

2017

Soirée, Fiery Friary, Project by Shaun McDowell, London, UK

PERPETUAL CONSTRUCTION, A DIALOGUE WITH THE HOUSE OF JEAN PROUVÉ III, CAB Art Centre, Brussels, BE

Holiday Home, ALMA ZEVI, Celerina, CH

James Capper, Casa Wabi Artist Residency, Oaxaca, MX

Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer, Berkshire, UK

SCULPTURE IN PUBLIC, WBG London Project, Woodwork Studios, London, UK

Drawing Biennial 2017, Drawing Room, London, UK

2016

Faith & Fathom, Galleria Poggiali, Florence, IT

+1, clearview, London, UK

Sculptor's Drawings, ALMA ZEVI, Venice, IT

Summer Sculpture Show, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, US

CONTINUUM, Vigo, London, UK

#32 Annual open exhibition, CGP LONDON/ Dilston Grove, Southwark Park, London, UK

What we all lack, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

The Imitation Game, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK

2015

Sculpture in the Close, Jesus College, Cambridge, UK

The Mechanical Corps, On the trail of Jules Verne, HMKV Dortmund, DE

FIRE SALE, Dynamite Projects, Surrey, UK

Doppelgänger, no format, London, UK

Drawing Biennial 2015, Drawing Room, London, UK

Access Through Tools design festival, London College of Communication, London, UK

WORK, Elika Gallery, Athens, GR

A Strong Affinity, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

Canalogies, Tottenham, London, UK

The Mechanical Corps, On the trail of Jules Verne, Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, DE

2013

Art Britannia, Art Basel Miami Week, Miami, US
PeckhamNewYorkParis, Mad Agency, Galerie 104 Kleber, Paris, FR
Open Heart Surgery, The Moving Museum, London, UK
Peckham Takeover, V&A Museum, London, UK
A Change of Heart, Richard Attenborough Centre, Leicester University, Leicester, UK
PeckhamNewYorkParis, Shoot the Lobster/Martos Gallery, New York, US
20/12 London Art Now, National Trust, Lodge Park, Cheltenham, UK
YES Young English Sculptors, Fundaziun Not Vital, Ardez, CH
Pertaining to things natural, Chelsea Physic Garden, London, UK
London Twelve, City Gallery, Prague, CZ
This is London, Shizaru Gallery, London, UK
FABRICATORS, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK (curator)

2011

Bold Tendencies 5, Peckham, London, UK
TECTONIC, The Moving Museum, Dubai, AE
HYDRAULIC POWER TOOLS, The Armory Show, New York, US
New Order: British Art Today, The Saatchi Collection, London, UK
A Skeleton in the Closet, Heidelberger Kunstverein-Ausser Haus, Heidelberg, DE and ReMap3, Athens, GR

2010

Let There Be Sculpture!, New Art Centre, Roche Court, Wiltshire, UK

2009

The Oil Fields (with Rob Sherwood), Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
Jerwood Sculpture Prize, Jerwood Space, London, UK
SEA LIGHT, Drift 10, River Thames, London, UK

2007

Bold Tendencies I, Bold Tendencies, London, UK
Colour & Line, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Small Paintings & Sculpture, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Landscape, Film & Photography, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Experiments with Figuration, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London UK
Building and Breaking: Drawing in Pencil, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
International Times, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Monumental Painting, Sculpture and Film, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK

2006

10 Rooms & a Sculpture Garden, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK

COLLECTIONS

Science Museum, London, UK

RESIDENCIES/AWARDS

2018

IZOLYATSIA Platform for Cultural Initiatives, Kyiv, UA (residency)

2017

Forth Arts, Sydney, AU (residency)

Broken Hill, Broken Hill, AS (residency)

2016

Wassaic Artist Residency, New York, US (residency)

2015

Paul Hamlyn Visual Arts Awards (nominated)

South Bank Sky Arts Awards, The Times Breakthrough Award (nominated)

2013

Artangel Open 100, UK (shortlisted)

2011

Royal Society of British Sculptors Bursary Award

The Jack Goldhill Prize for Sculpture, Royal Academy of Arts

Jerwood Sculpture Prize (shortlisted)

PUBLICATIONS

JAMES CAPPER: ROTARY PAINTINGS & HYDRA PAINTER (Albion Barn: Oxford, 2021)

WAYS TO MAKE MOBILE SCULPTURE (Albion Barn: Oxford 2017)

The Imitation Game (Manchester Art Gallery: Manchester 2016)

The Mechanical Corps, On the trail of Jules Verne (Kunstlerhaus Bethanien: Berlin 2015)

Open Heart Surgery (The Moving Museum: London, 2013)

Peckham Takeover (V&A Museum: London, 2013)

A Change of Heart (Richard Attenborough Centre: Leicester University, Leicester, 2013)

YES Young English Sculptors (Fundaziun Not Vital: Ardez, 2013)

London Twelve (City Gallery: Prague, 2013)

RIPPER TEETH IN ACTION (Modern Art Oxford: Oxford, 2011)

New Order: British Art Today (The Saatchi Collection: London, 2011)

TECTONIC (The Moving Museum: Dubai, 2011)

Drawings for Machines (Hannah Barry Gallery: London, 2009)