

# Paul Steen

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Making art for me is a way of understanding the world. I read a lot, watch the news, and when I'm into a subject it eventually results in art in some form.

There is often an element of comedy or play or gameplay on the surface of what I do, but there should always be possibilities of layers of serious interpretation beyond that.

I rarely stay with any one medium for long, I am always searching for the right medium to present what I want to say for the moment. This has taken me from painting to making hand-made boardgames, to making photography, building an airship, making computer games, standing on a stage singing, and sometimes back to painting again.

I studied classical painting but started looking for new ways of expression when the Royal Academy in Brussels felt too narrow to me in its strict categorizations of what the act of painting should be. This led me to create, among other things, a fictitious religious cult of kitsch, a fictitious landless nation, and a boardgame about distribution of resources in the world after the fall of the Soviet union and the subsequent end of said world in a nuclear holocaust.

Trying to learn more about the world I have come to develop an interest in boundaries of different kinds, especially social boundaries. Arbitrary boundaries between us and them, hierarchies and structures of power, such things interest me.

## CV PAUL STEEN

\*1972, Vaksala, Sweden

### EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 "New Life", group exhibition, Wandler#3, Frappant, Hamburg
- 2010 "Art Assault", group exhibition, Wandler#1, Kleefeld, Hamburg  
Project Dice@Galerie Kleefeld at Supermarket Artfair, Stockholm  
"Art Assault", Supermarket Artfair, Stockholm  
"Poster Shock", group exhibition, Monster Times, Copenhagen  
"The End", public game play, group exhibition, Worm, Rotterdam  
"Art Assault", public game play, group exhibition, #RANK, Seven, Miami
- 2009 "The Secret Identity", curator, group exhibition, Project Dice at Galerie Kleefeld, Hamburg  
"Darwin's world", mural, Fitting Forward concept store, Hamburg  
"House to House", installation, Kleefeld gallery, Hamburg
- 2007 "The Accidental Tattolist", "1000 meter konst" group exhibition, Huddinge Centrum, Stockholm
- 2006 "Minutka Square", separate exhibition, Massma center for contemporary art, Ronneby
- 2005 Mars at Stockholm Artfair
- 2004 "Make your own artfair", Mars at Stockholm Artfair
- 2003 "Make-up tent" and Mars award for contemporary art, performance with Sebastian Franzén, Soc, Stockholm  
Mars at Stockholm Artfair in collaboration with Galleri Sauna  
"The End", public game play, Art and zeal, group exhibition, Moment, Stockholm
- 2002 "Graffiti furniture", lounge furniture, group exhibition, Arkitekturmuseet, Stockholm  
"Make your own page" Mars at Zoo, Moderna Dansteatern, Stockholm  
"Mars coloring book" Mars at Konstakuten, Stockholm  
Release, Mars magazine, After Shopping, Kulturhuset, Stockholm  
"Fraktur", performance, Arvikafestivalen
- 2001 "Bunny Disco" installation, Play House group exhibition, Ekeby Qvarn Art Space, Uppsala  
"Ellie", insert, Helga & Goldankauf catalogue, Munich  
"Spela Boll", studio exhibition, Stockholm  
"Fraktur", performance, Arvikafestivalen, Arvika
- 2000 "Starboy", with Anders Thyr, video and cd, Konstfack graduation exhibition, Stockholm  
Starboy in concert, with Anders Thyr and Burek V, Galleri Konstfack, Stockholm  
"Spela Boll", separate exhibition, Uplands Nation, Uppsala
- 1999 "Candycocks From Outer Space", performance, official millennium celebration, Baggensgatan, Stockholm  
"Starboy", video with Anders Thyr, video, Konstfack, Stockholm  
"Photography", group exhibition, Ungdomens Hus, Uppsala
- 1998 "Greatest Hits", separate exhibition, Arbetsförmedlingen, Uppsala  
"War", slideshow, Bad Religion concert, Kåren, Göteborg
- 1997 "Party", as curator and participant, group exhibition, Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Brussels  
"The End", game, graduation exhibition, Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Brussels  
"Nomad Nation", separate exhibition, Galerie Caduta Sassi, Munich  
"Greatest Hits", separate exhibition, Uplands Nation, Uppsala  
"War", slideshow, Speed, group exhibition, Ultraschall, Munich  
"Trash", installation, Salon de Printemps group exhibition, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels  
"Like Snow", performance, Stella Art Awards, Leuven  
Group installation, Art et Architecture, Magazin 3, Brussels
- 1996 "UFO picnic", separate exhibition, Uplands Nation, Uppsala  
"Friends and Family", slide show, Mariabar, Munich  
"Winter", nine short films, Akademie für die Bildenden Künste, Munich
- 1995 "Utan titel (175x175)", installation, group exhibition "I Bruno Liljefors Spår", Dannemora gruva

### EDUCATION

- 1998 Journalism, Gothenburg University, Gothenburg
- 1997 Diploma, Academie Royal des Beaux-Arts, Brussels
- 1996 ERASMUS, Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich
- 1993–1997 Painting, Academie Royal des Beaux-Arts, Brussels
- 1992–1993 Gotland School of Art, Visby