



Dan Gunn  
*Impromptu Airs*

# Dan Gunn

## *Impromptu Airs*

6 November 2014 – 10 January 2015

This publication was created on the occasion of Dan Gunn's second solo exhibition at moniquemeloche

moniquemeloche

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Through painterly abstraction and formal invention, Dan Gunn creates two and three-dimensional objects that are inspired by vernacular patterns, craft materials, and set design. Thick, laser-cut wood strips, overlaid with various pigment stains, form the foundation of many of his low-relief, wall sculptures. He draws his sources from materials in motion, from the buckling of a fabric curtain, the sleeves of a garment, or expanding screens. His gestures, at once seamless and non-conforming, gently manipulate the materiality of wood to occupy a space between restraint and release. Gunn's diverse practice continues to develop in many directions, but here, for his second solo exhibition at moniquemeloche, the focus is on the expansion of two series in particular – his “fan” paintings and “draperies.” In both bodies of work, he plays with scale while exploring the full spectrum of color. Gunn squeezes and swells the silhouettes of his fans, abstracting from his previous renderings while upholding the visual identity of humble materials and exquisitely composed shapes. Gunn's works are playful spectacles, each with their own malleable mannerisms or impromptu airs.

Prior to earning his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007, **Dan Gunn (American, born 1980, lives in Chicago)** received a Bachelor's degree in Physics. His interest in physics overlaps with his artistic practice, where he continues to investigate the peculiar qualities of materials. In an intuitive construction process, he experiments with forms, grouping objects together in a search for revealed affinities and a deeper understanding of culture. In 2013, Gunn received the Artadia Award at EXPO Chicago. Recent exhibitions and residencies include *The Life of Forms* at Marine Contemporary, California (2013); Participant at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (2012); 12x12 UBS solo project at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (2011); *Multistable Picture Fable* at Lloyd Dobler Gallery in Chicago (2010); *New Icon* at Loyola University Museum of Art in Chicago (2010); His work has been reviewed in publications such as Frieze, Art in America, Artslant, NewCity Chicago, TimeOut Chicago, and the Chicago Tribune. Gunn's curatorial debut occurred this summer with the group exhibition *My Hands Are My Bite* at moniquemeloche.



*Impromptu Airs*, Installation view



*Grand Amusement*, 2014

Dye, UV absorbent lacquer on basswood solid core plywood with nylon cord and wire  
85 x 60 inches



*FFaannnn No. 1, 2014*

Dye, acrylic, UV absorbent lacquer, Baltic birch plywood on particleboard

13 ½ x 55 inches

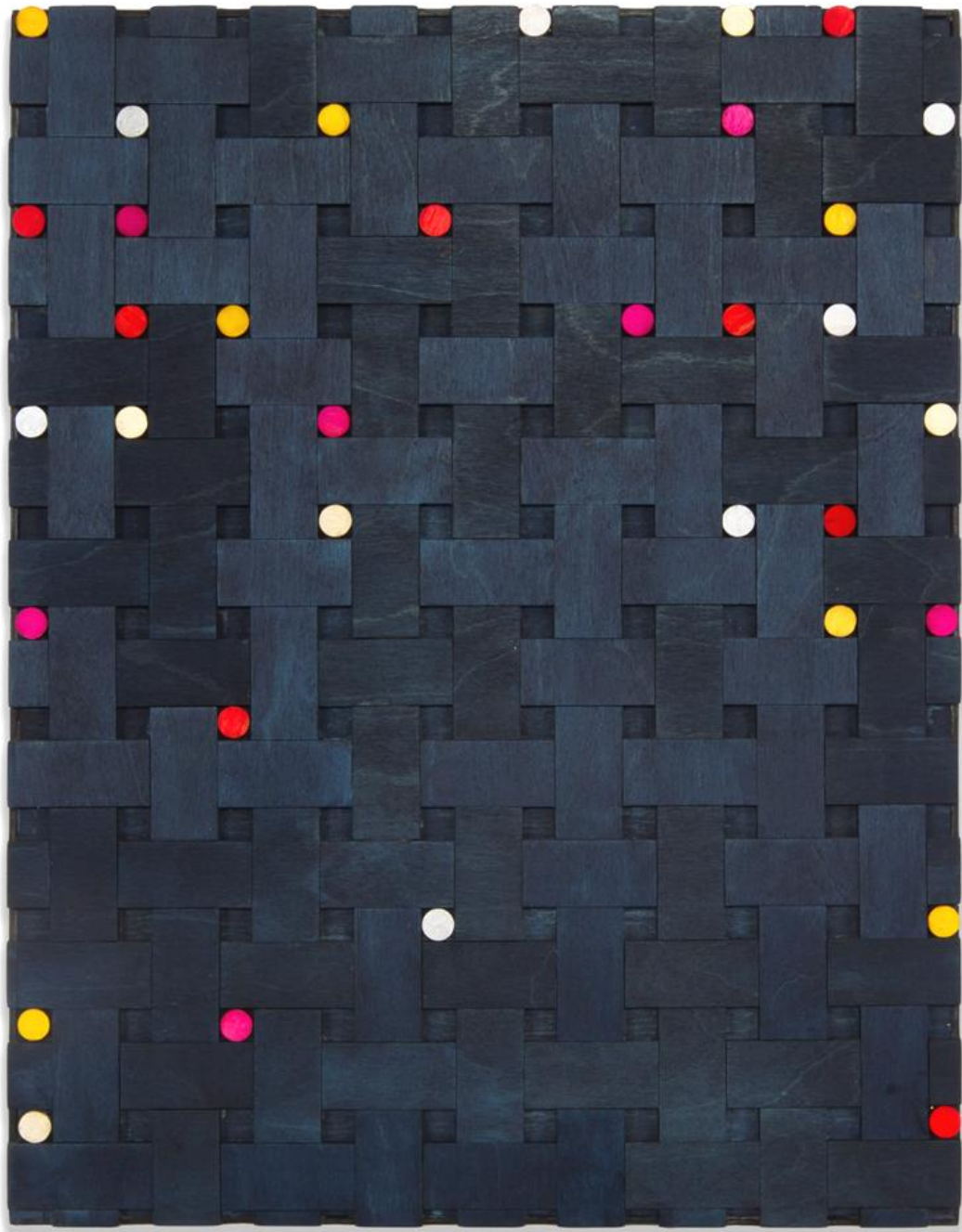


*Fan No. 9, 2013; Fn No. 1, 2014; F No. 1, 2014, Installation view*  
Dye, acrylic, UV absorbent lacquer, plywood  
13 ½ x 20 inches; 13 ½ x 8 ½ inches; 13 ½ x 4 ¾ inches



*FFaannnn No. 1, 2014 and Faannn No. 1, 2014, Installation view*  
Dye, acrylic, UV absorbent lacquer, Baltic birch plywood on particleboard  
13 ½ x 55 inches and 13 ½ x 28 ½ inches





*Broadway*, 2014

Dye, acrylic, UV absorbent lacquer, basswood solid core plywood  
18 x 14 inches



*Impromptu Airs*, Installation view (Kay Rosen, *LOL on the wall*)

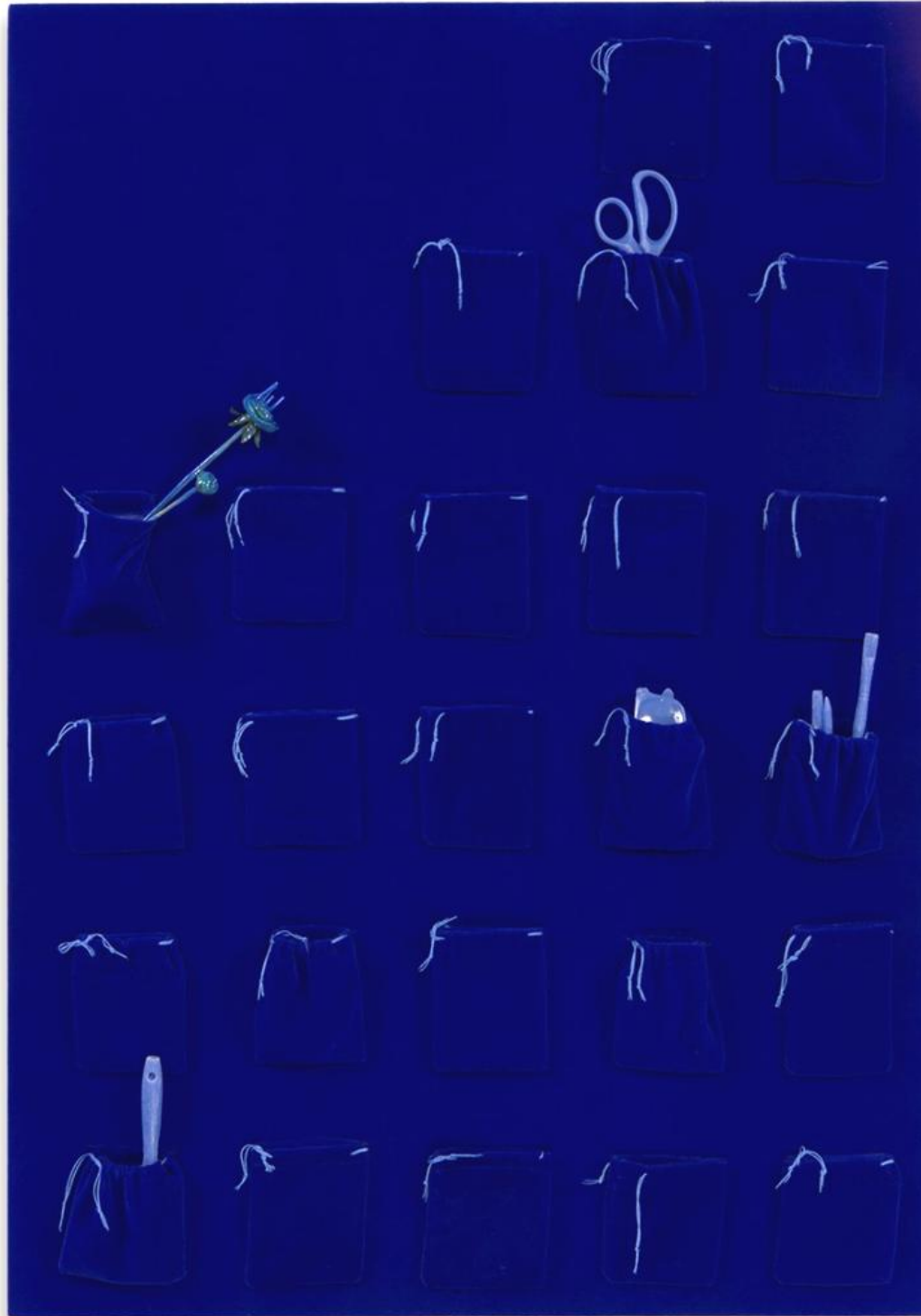


*To Fan No. 2, 2014*  
Dye and polyurethane on Baltic birch plywood on particleboard  
22 x 88 inches



*Manual Dexterity, 2014*

Dye, acrylic, UV absorbent lacquer on basswood solid core plywood with nylon cord and wire  
50 x 27 inches



*Juggler No.2*, 2014  
Velvet, nylon cord, cotton thread, urethane plastic on plywood  
34 x 48 inches



*Sweaty Antics, 2014*

Dye, UV absorbent lacquer on Baltic birch plywood on particleboard

16 x 30 ¼ inches

# DAN GUNN

American, born 1980, lives Chicago

## Education

- 2012 Artist in Residence, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, Maine
- 2007 MFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2005 Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Painting, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2003 BS Physics, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 *Impromptu Airs*, moniquemeloche, Chicago IL
- 2013 Art LA Contemporary, Barker Hanger, Los Angeles
- 2011 *Routine Scenic Machine*, moniquemeloche, Chicago, IL  
*Patchwork Plateau*, curated by Julie Rodrigues Widholm, UBS 12x12 series, MCA Chicago, IL
- 2010 *Multistable Picture Fable*, Lloyd Dobler Gallery, Chicago, IL

## Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *New American Paintings: Midwest Edition*, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL
- 2013 *Life of Forms @ Marine Contemporary*, Venice, CA  
*Terrain Exhibitions Biennial*, Terrain Exhibitions, Oak Park, IL  
group show, curated by Sabina Ott, Riverside Arts Center Freeark Gallery, Riverside, IL
- 2012 *wood*, Gunn, Robert Davis/Michael Langlois, Jason Middlebrook, Joel Ross, moniquemeloche, Chicago, IL
- 2011 *Color: Fully Engaged*, Curated by Jamilee Polson, A+D Gallery, Columbia College, Chicago, IL  
*MDW Fair*, The Suburban Booth, Chicago, IL  
*Winter Experiment*, moniquemeloche, Chicago, IL
- 2010 *New Icon*, Curated by Britton Bertran, sponsored by the Contemporary Art Council, Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago, IL  
*DannyThinkTank*, Milwaukee Avenue Art Festival, Chicago, IL
- 2009 *Sweeping the Inside Out*, curated by Carl Baratta and Mike Kaysen, Side Car Gallery, Hammond, IN  
*Middleground*, with Jerome Acks, Michael Hunter and Andrea Myers, Lloyd Dobler Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*I love you I love you*, in collaboration with Karolina Gnatowski, Livingroom Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2008 *Retreat*, Curated by Jen Ramos, Northern Illinois University, Gallery 312, Dekalb, IL  
*Territory*, in collaboration with Karolina Gnatowski, 2828 N. Sawyer, Chicago, IL
- 2007 *Darrell Morris, Dan Gunn, Pilar Tena*, Brown Triangle, Chicago, IL  
*HA--&--LF*, Curated by Gilberto Rocha, Sound Art Space, Laredo, TX and Centro Cultural Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, México  
*Graduate Thesis Show*, Gallery 2, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Group Show*, Gallery 2, Gallery 2, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2006 *TV Party*, Fifty50 Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Emerald City*, The Rider Project, Brooklyn, NY  
*Meet Me for Lunch*, Curated by Jason Hardwig, 17 S. Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL
- 2005 *Experiment 400/5*, UIC Curators: The Alliance of Pentaphilic Curators, Gallery 400, Chicago, IL  
*Graduate Thesis Show*, Gallery 2, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

## Selected Bibliography

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- 2014 "DAN GUNN'S IMPLIED MOBILITY", *INSIDE\WITHIN*, December.  
Zevitas, Steven, "Must See Painting Shows: November/December 2014", *The Huffington Post*, November 20.  
Karpova Tinari, Anastasia. "Review: Dan Gunn/MoniqueMeloche", *Newcity*, November, 25.
- 2013 Thomson, Allese. "Scene and Herd" *Artforum.com*, October 2.  
Klein, Paul. "Expo Chicago Opens" *HuffingtonPost.com*, September 18.

### **Selected Bibliography, continued**

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- 2011 Snodgrass, Susan, "Dan Gunn", *Art in America*, December 6, p 139-140.  
"Dan Gunn: On Our Chicago Watch List", *Artslant Chicago*, [www.artslant.com](http://www.artslant.com).  
"The Friday Night Art Crawl Roundup; A.K.A. "'The View', but with Art", *Gapers Block*, September 14.  
Niendorf, Emmaline, "Simply Magnificent: Top Art Exhibitions for September 2011, Vol. 2", <http://www.theresidenceschicago.com/blog>, September 16.  
Viera, Lauren, "Bringing Painting into the Third Dimension", *Chicago Tribune*, September 23, p. 7.  
Klein, Paul, "The Opening of Chicago's Fall Art Season", *Art Letter*, September 8.  
Ritchie, Abraham, "Dan Gunn", *Flavorpill*.  
"Friday's best bets: Chicago Summer Dance; UBS 12x12: Dan Gunn; James Zabiela", *TimeOut Chicago*, September 2.  
"Dan Gunn Creates New Work Especially for the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago", [www.artdaily.org](http://www.artdaily.org).  
Ise, Claudine, "Critics Picks: Chicago" *art ltd.* Sept/Oct 2011, p. 82-83.  
Fomberg, Jason, "Fall Art Preview 2011" *NewCity Chicago*.  
Wenzel, Erik, "Winter Experiment." *ArtSlant.com*, January 24.  
"Around Town", *TimeOut Chicago*, January 19 – 26.
- 2010 Weber, Candice, "Dan Gunn," *TimeOut Chicago*, September 29.  
Ise, Claudine, "Four For Fall," *Art:21 Blog*. September 28.  
Viera, Lauren, "Best art of 2010 found in unlikely places," *Chicago Tribune*, December 17, p. 18.  
Weinberg, Lauren, "Winter of discontent: Why was 2010 so blah?" *TimeOut Chicago*, Dec 16-29.  
Viera, Lauren, "Dan Gunn at Lloyd Dobler," *Chicago Tribune*, October 8.  
Grabner, Michelle, "New Icon: Critic's Picks," *Artforum.com*, July.  
Wenzel, Erik, "A Usually Pictorial Representation," *ArtSlant.com*. June 28.  
Drew, Spencer, "New Icon / Review," *Newcity Magazine*, June 21.  
Weinberg, Lauren, "New Icon," *TimeOut Chicago*, June 17.  
Velez, Pedro, "Chicago Build Up," *Artnet.com*, January.  
"Dan's Last Stand, Dan Gunn Interview, *BDBBDB*, Issue #1, "Stands", p. 7-9.

### **Public Collections**

Fidelity Corporate Art Collection, Chicago  
The Joyce Foundation, Chicago  
Marciano Art Foundation, LA  
TD Bank, New York



**moniquemeloche** was founded in October 2000 with an inaugural exhibition titled *Homewrecker* at Meloche's home, and officially opened to the public in May 2001. Working with an international group of emerging artists in all media, the gallery presents conceptually challenging installations in Chicago and at art fairs internationally with an emphasis on curatorial and institutional outreach.

**moniquemeloche**

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