

MARK DION Biography

Mark Dion, the artist who created the “Ship in the Bottle” public art installation for the Port of Los Angeles, is known for making art out of fieldwork, incorporating elements of biology, archaeology, ethnography, and the history of science, and applying to his artwork methodologies generally used for pure science. Traveling the world and collaborating with a wide range of scientists, artists and museums, he has excavated ancient and modern artifacts from the banks of the Thames in London, established a marine life laboratory using specimens from New York’s Chinatown, and created a contemporary cabinet of curiosities exploring natural and philosophical hierarchies.

Dion was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1961, and currently lives in New York and Pennsylvania. He earned his BFA at the University of Hartford School of Art, CT (1981-82, 86), attended the School of Visual Arts, New York (1982-84), and took part in the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program (1984-85). He is the recipient of the ninth annual Larry Aldrich Foundation Award (2001), the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award (2005), the Lucelia Award, Smithsonian Museum of American Art (2008), and was awarded a Doctor of Arts by the University of Hartford School of Art in 2003.

Mark Dion’s current solo exhibition, *The Marvelous Museum: A Project by Mark Dion*, is at the Oakland Museum of California through March 2011. This show continues the artist's investigation of the visual representation of knowledge and the natural sciences, and his concern with historical methods of representing and organizing the world. This spring, Dion will create an exhibition inspired by the museum and collection of Le Musée Oceanographique in Monaco. Entitled *Oceanomania*, it opens April 11th.

Recent solo exhibitions include *WeltWissen - World Knowledge: 300 Years of Science in Berlin* at the Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin; a solo show at Le département archeologique des recherches archeologiques subaquatiques et sour-marines du Musée de l'Arles et de la Provence antiques, Musée departmental Arles antiques, France (2009); *Concerning Hunting*, Arhus Kunstbygning, Denmark, traveling to Galleria Civica di Modena, Italy, Herbert Gerisch-Stiftung Neumünster, Germany, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems an der Donau, Austria (2008-10); *Mark Dion: Travels of William Bartram—Reconsidered*, Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia (2008); *Systema Metropolis*, Natural History Museum, London (2007); *The Natural History of the Museum*, Carré d'Art, Nimes, traveled to Dunkers Kulturhus, Helsingborg, Sweden, and Seedamm Kulturzentrum, Pfäffikon, Switzerland (2007); *The South Florida Wildlife Rescue Unit*, Miami Art Museum (2006); *Seattle Vivarium*, Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle Art Museum (2006); *Microcosmographia*, South London Gallery, London (2005); and *Projects 82, Rescue Archaeology*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2004); *Two Banks (Tate Thames Dig)* and *Art Now 20: Tate Thames Dig*, Tate Gallery, London (both 1999).

Dion’s work was seen in a group presentation in the Nordic Pavilion, XXVII La Biennale di Venezia (1997). He has been commissioned to create works for The Aldrich Museum of Art, Ridgefield, CT; the Tate Gallery, London; the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; *Sonsbeek 93*, Arnhem, The Netherlands; *Skulptur Projekte in Münster*, Germany; and the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh.