

# Amuse



## Five Questions With Dean Levin

Amuse caught up with the 26 year-old NY artist ahead of his London solo show.

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As the youngest artist on New York gallerist Marianne Boesky's roster, Dean Levin has come along way from his native Johannesburg-born Southern Californian-raised roots. Having graduated from Pratt with a bachelor's degree in architecture back in 2012, Dean then turned his hand to painting and migrated to NY like fellow Cali artists Lucien Smith, Nick Darmstaedter and Brendan Lynch.

Dean's architectural past echoes throughout his practice, and his use of reflective surfaces and materials challenge traditional notions of perception. In his upcoming show *Swimming Upstream*, his aim was to advance this idea further by inserting a reflective surface within the structure as opposed to aside it – sleek pieces of marble are filled with leftover materials from Levin's studio, like lead, charcoal, turpentine and water. Amuse caught up with Dean during *Frieze*, to discuss his first solo show in London and to ask him five questions about everything except his work.



**Where did you grow up and where do you live now?**

I grew up in LA and now I live in New York. When I was growing up in LA, New York was always thought of as the next best city for people in my generation.

**What was your first experience with a work of art?**

I'm pretty sure the first piece I ever saw was a Donald Judd. It was at LACMA in Los Angeles and they had a light and space exhibition on at the time.

**What's your morning ritual?**

I go to my local coffeehouse, it's a football cafe on 100 Forsythe – my friend Simonez Wolf runs it.

**What do you listen to in the studio?**

Recently, I've been listening to a lot of country from the 70s like David Allan Coe, Jerry Jeff Walker or what you call "Outlaw Country". But weirdly, also, the new Justin Bieber song. But mostly country right now.

**Where are you your happiest?**

I'm happiest on a nice cold winter's day when it's snowing and I'm in my apartment – knowing I can't go outside and can't get anything done – just knowing I'm at home... or on vacation.



Swimming Upstream is on at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, 12 October 2015 – 14 November 2015