

Andrew Kreps  
Gallery

22 Cortlandt Alley,  
New York, NY 10013

Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm  
andrewkreps.com

Tel. (212)741-8849  
Fax. (212)741-8163

# Dewey Crumpler

## Post Atlantic

September 8 - October 28, 2023

Opening Reception:

Friday, September 8, 6 - 8 pm

Andrew Kreps Gallery is pleased to announce *Post Atlantic*, the gallery's first exhibition with the Oakland-based artist Dewey Crumpler (b. 1949, Magnolia, AK).

In his work, Crumpler employs a lexicon of motifs through which he examines how the systems of our globalized world both carry and alter meaning, as well as the felt traces of racial violence that are imbued within everyday life. An encounter with a documentary photograph of an item described as an African slave collar in the 1990s sparked an ongoing, decades long engagement with the object, often occurring in repeated and abstracted forms in dense compositions. First interested was the collar's ovoid shape, which immediately suggested the absence of a body, or wearer, Crumpler later discovered the object's original function as a sacred object employed in ritual ceremonies, which was only recast when brought to the New World. The collar would then become a bridge to investigate how the extraction of objects and concepts from their original context, and their subsequent appropriation and colonization, fundamentally alters their resonance and purpose - an inquiry that permeates the entirety of Crumpler's practice.

Simultaneously, the hulking container ships that dominate Oakland's port would emerge as a parallel project, as the stacked shipping containers both carry and conceal the apparatuses of commerce, often utilizing the same Transatlantic routes that emerged in the 15th century. These works, while representational in approach, similarly explore how these systems can be understood through abstraction, whether it be the vivid alternating colors of the containers, or the formal ridges of their corrugated exteriors which engage in a play of light and shadow. Often depicted as being in a state of peril, either crashed or burst open, they display the spoils of a commodity-based culture. These include bananas, meats, clothing, all items that while at first appear banal and familiar, often carry with them a history of exploitation that is obscured by the time they arrive at their destination. In new works, Crumpler has introduced an anthropomorphized, empty hoodie, which has been the subject of its own body of work since the 1990s, further investigating how the memory of an object merges with its present, to shape a new experience of time and reality.

Dewey Crumpler began his artistic career in the Bay Area in the 1960s. Having studied

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mural painting in Mexico alongside Pablo O'Higgins, and David Alfaro Siqueiros, in 1974, he was commissioned to paint the now-iconic murals at George Washington High School, which formed a direct response to Victor Arnautoff's controversial "Life of Washington" works. In 2022, the Richmond Art Center organized *Crossings*, an expansive survey exhibition of Crumpler's work including over 100 works. Additional past solo exhibitions include *The Complete Hoodie Works, 1993–Present*, Cushion Works San Francisco, 2021, and *Of Tulips & Shadows*, California African American Museum, 2008, among others. Crumpler's works are held in the permanent collections of SFMoMA, San Francisco; The DeYoung Museum, San Francisco; the Oakland Museum of California; the Triton Museum of Art, CA; and the California African American Museum. From 1989 to 2022, Dewey Crumpler was a professor in the painting department at the San Francisco Art Institute, where he additionally taught classes on Jazz and African Studies.

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ENTRANCE



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*Post Now*, 2018

Acrylic on canvas  
72 x 60 x 3 inches (182.9 x 152.4  
x 7.6 cm.)  
(DEC23-101)

MAIN GALLERY



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*Time Mist*, 2019

Acrylic and mixed media on  
canvas  
60 x 72 inches (152.4 x 182.9  
cm.)  
(DEC23-143)



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*Crows*, 2023

Acrylic on canvas  
60 x 72 inches (152.4 x 152.9  
cm.)  
(DEC23-140)



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*Untitled, Truck*, 2016

Acrylic and metal leaf on canvas  
60 x 72 inches (152.4 x 182.9  
cm.)  
(DEC23-141)



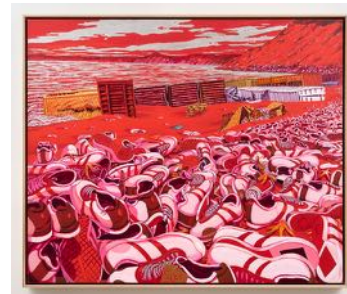
DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*Breach*, 2023

Acrylic and metal leaf on canvas  
60 x 72 inches (152.4 x 182.9  
cm.)  
(DEC23-142)



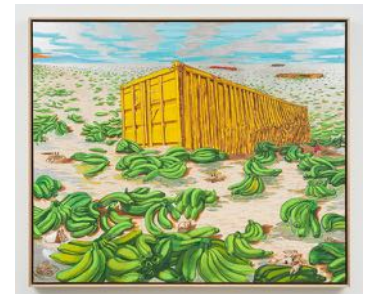
DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*East, West, North & South*, 2021

Acrylic and mixed media on  
canvas  
72 x 120 inches (182.9 x 304.8  
cm.)  
(DEC23-153)



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*White Shoes, Red Field*, 2016

Acrylic and metal leaf on canvas  
60 x 72 inches (152.4 x 182.9  
cm.)  
(DEC23-148)



DEWEY CRUMPLEER  
*Green Bananas*, 2015

Acrylic and metal leaf on canvas  
60 x 72 inches (152.4 x 182.9  
cm.)  
(DEC23-145)

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DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*The Watery New*, 2018

Mixed media collage  
18 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches (47 x 57.1  
cm.)  
(DEC23-021)



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*We Don't Die, We Multiply*, 2018

Mixed media collage  
18 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches (47 x 57.1  
cm.)  
(DEC23-017)



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*Pink on Pink*, 2018

Mixed media collage  
18 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches (47 x 57.1  
cm.)  
(DEC23-020)



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*Moe*, 2018

Mixed media collage  
18 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches (47 x 57.1  
cm.)  
(DEC23-022)



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*Digit, Digit, Digit*, 2018

Mixed media collage  
18 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches (47 x 57.1  
cm.)  
(DEC23-018)



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*BONE*, 2016

Acrylic and mixed media on  
canvas  
72 x 72 inches (182.9 x 182.9  
cm.)  
(DEC23-144)

#### DOUBLE-HEIGHT SPACE



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*P. Atlantic*, 2021

Acrylic and mixed media on  
canvas  
60 x 72 inches (152.4 x 182.9  
cm.)  
(DEC23-154)



DEWEY CRUMPLER  
*The Deep*, 2018

Acrylic and metal leaf on canvas  
60 x 72 inches (152.4 x 182.9  
cm.)  
(DEC23-146)

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# Dewey Crumpler

Born 1949, Arkansas.  
Lives and works in the Bay Area.

## EDUCATION

- 1989 Master of Fine Arts, Mills College, Oakland, CA  
1974 Master of Arts, San Francisco State University, SF, CA  
1972 Bachelor of Fine Arts, San Francisco Art Institute, SF, CA  
1970 Studied Mural Painting, Pablo O'Higgins & David Siqueiros, Mexico City  
1967 Balboa High School, SF, CA

## WORK AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 1990 Associate Professor, San Francisco Art Institute, SF, CA  
1998–97 Lecturer, Art Dept., Stanford University Palo Alto, CA  
1998–96 Lecturer, Art Dept., University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA  
1994–89 Lecturer, Art Dept., San Francisco State University, SF, CA  
1994–85 Lecturer, Ethnic Studies Dept., SF State University, SF, CA  
1980–78 Director, African American Historical & Cultural Society, SF, CA  
1978–77 Curriculum Specialist, ESAA Project, SFUSD, SF, CA  
1977–74 Art Consultant, Arts Commission, Mural Program, San Francisco, CA  
Painting Instructor, Californian College Arts & Crafts, Oakland, CA  
Art Consultant, Ravenswood City School District, Palo Alto, CA  
1974–72 Artist Intern, San Francisco State University, SF, CA

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Post Atlantic*, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY  
*Dewey Crumpler: Tulip Memories*, FOG Design + Art San Francisco, CA  
2022 *Painting is an Act of Spiritual Aggression*, Derek Eller Gallery New York, NY  
*Crossings*, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA  
2021 *The Complete Hoodie Works, 1993–Present*, Cushion Works, San Francisco, CA

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- 2018 *COLLAPSE | RECENT WORKS BY Dewey Crumpler*, Hedreen Gallery  
Seattle University, Washington
- 2008 *Of Tulips & Shadows*, Calif. African American Museum, Los Angeles,  
CA
- 2000 *Paintings & Works on Paper*, Dominican College, San Rafael, CA
- 1997 *Recent Paintings*, Porter Randall Gallery, La Jolla, CA
- 1993 *Recent Works*, Sacramento State University, Else Gallery, Sacramento,  
CA
- 1991 *Nommo: Spirit of the Word*, Bomani Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Paintings*, Plaza Gallery, Bank of America, San Francisco, CA
- 1990 *Introduction '90: Two Artists*, William Sawyer Gallery, San Francisco,  
CA (two-person)
- 1989 *Paintings & Works on Paper*, Somar Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1982 *Visual Music*, Grand Oak Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 1978 *Points of Views—New Perspectives*, Center of Visual Arts, Oakland, CA  
*Out of Context: The Mural Project Emanuel Walter & Atholl McBean*  
Galleries, San Francisco Art Institute, SF, CA  
*Continuity & Change—Emerging Afro-American Artists California*  
Afro-American Museum, Los Angeles, CA (catalog)  
*Artist Select – Contemporary Perspectives* Arizona Western College,  
Yuma, AZ & Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ (catalog)  
*Works of Art on Paper* TEMPO Gallery, Crocker Art Museum,  
Sacramento, CA (brochure)
- 1977 *Capricorn Asunder* Art Gallery, San Francisco Arts Commission, San  
Francisco, CA  
*Portraits* San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
(brochure)
- 1975 *People's Murals* San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San  
Francisco, CA

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Vision & Spirit Works From The Bank Of America Collection*, Harvey B  
Gantt Center Charlotte, NC  
*The Armory Show* at the Javits Center with Jenkins Johnson Gallery  
New York, NY  
*What's It All About*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2017 *Soul of a Nation (Digital Mural Image)*, Tate Modern, London, UK
- 2012 *Choose Paint! Choose Abstraction*, Museum of the African Diaspora,  
San Francisco CA
- 2010 *Rehistoricizing Abstract Expressionism Luggage*, Store Gallery, San  
Francisco, CA
- 2004 *Shakespeare as Muse*, Schneider Museum of Art, Southern Oregon  
University
- 2002 *Pacific States Biennial National Print Exhibition*, University of Hawaii,  
Hilo, Hawaii

- 2001 *Winter Works*, Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA
- 2000 Nature Books Gallery Route One, Pt.Reyes, CA
- 1999 *Vision 2000*, Vorpall Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Untitled*, Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA
- 1998 *Freedom or Slavery*, The Paul Robeson Portfolio Alliance Press,  
Berkeley, CA  
*California Landscape: An Urban/Rural Dialog*, Triton Museum of Art,  
Santa Clara, CA  
*Bay Area Artists*, Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA
- 1997 *American Color*, Louie Stern Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1994 *Visual Encounters*, Galerie Resche, Paris, France  
*I Remember*, Sarah Campbell Gallery, University of Houston, TX  
*Works on Paper*, University of Hawaii Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii
- 1993 *Twelve Bay Area Painters: Eureka Fellowship Winners*, Museum of Art,  
San Jose, CA  
*I Remember*, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
- 1992 *Why Painting?*, Susan Cummins Gallery, Mill Valley, CA  
*Communal Sources*, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA
- 1991 *Pro-Arts Annual Juried Exhibition*, Oakland, CA  
*Giverny #6 Public Art Works*, Installation, Fillmore Center, San  
Francisco, CA
- 1989 *New Genre: In Dissidence of Tradition*, Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley,  
CA  
*Two Bay Area Artists*, Gallery I, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
- 1987 *Contemporary Black Artists*, Slant Gallery, Sacramento, CA  
*Ethnic Notions*, Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA  
*Black, White & Color in Three Dimensions*, Berkeley Art Center,  
Berkeley, CA
- 1985 *New Art in the West*, Vorpall Gallery, SF, CA
- 1984 *Bay Area Black Artists*, Sargeant Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1978 *7th Annual Art Exhibition*, Atlantic Life Insurance, Atlanta, GA  
*Points of Views—New Perspectives*, Center of Visual Arts, Oakland, CA  
*Out of Context: The Mural Project*, Emanuel Walter & Atholl McBean  
Galleries, San Francisco Art Institute, SF, CA  
*Continuity & Change—Emerging Afro-American Artists*, California Afro-  
American Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
*Artist Select – Contemporary Perspectives*, Arizona Western College,  
Yuma, AZ & Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
*Works of Art on Paper*, TEMPO Gallery, Crocker Art Museum,  
Sacramento, CA
- 1977 *Capricorn*, Asunder Art Gallery, San Francisco Arts Commission, San  
Francisco, CA  
*Portraits*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 1975 *People's Murals*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco,  
CA

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## COMMISSIONS

- 1984 Black & Tan Mural (4500 sq.ft.) Western Addition Cultural Center,  
Mayor's Office of Community Development, San Francisco, CA
- 1977 Fire Next Time Mural (5500 sq.ft.), Joseph Lee Center, Arts  
Commission, San Francisco, CA  
Certain Unalienable Rights (6 panels), Bicentennial American Issue  
Forum, California Historical Society, San Francisco, CA
- 1976 People's Murals (8' x 20'), Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 1968 Children's Health Center #2, Arts Commission, San Francisco, CA

## LECTURES-RESIDENCIES

- 2002 Visiting Artist University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii
- 2001 Artist in Residence E.N.S.C.I. Les Atelier, Paris, France
- 2000 Artist in Residence La Villette, Paris, France
- 1999 Artist in Residence Ecole des Beaux Arts, Aix, France
- 1998 Artist Forum Series Ann Kohes and Associates, San Francisco, CA
- 1994 Visual Encounter Palais du Luxembourg, Paris, France
- 1993 Artist and Community College Art Association Conference, New  
York, NY

## COLLECTIONS

- 2023 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
San Francisco DeYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 Bank Of America, Art Collection, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University, Logan,  
UT
- 1999 Trident Art Museum, Santa Clara, CA
- 1985 Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA
- 1984 California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA
- 1977 San Francisco Air Ports Commission, San Francisco, CA

## AWARDS

- 2005 Visual Artist Award Flintridge Foundation, Pasadena, CA.
- 1995 Fellowship Grant Award National Endowment for the Arts
- 1992 Eureka Fellowship Award Fleishhacker Foundation, Eureka, CA
- 1991 Honored Artist Award Pro Art Annual Exhibition, Oakland, CA
- 1985 Grant Award California Arts Council, Artist In-Residence Program
- 1984 Grant Award California Arts Council, Artist In-Residence Program
- 1983 Grant Award California Arts Council, Artist In-Residence Program
- 1982 Grant Award California Arts Council, Artist In-Residence Program



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1978 Purchase Award Airports Commission, SF, CA  
1977 Purchase Award Fillmore-Fell Gallery, SF, CA  
1975 Outstanding Achievement Award National Conference of Artists  
1969 Purchase Award Arts Commission, SF, CA  
1967 Honorary Resolution Award Mayor's Office, SF, CA