BLOUIN

ART / ARCHITECTURE / DESIGN / PERFORMANCE / FILM

MODERNPAINTERS

DECEMBER 2014

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ARTISTS
TO WATCH

DYLAN RABE

Lives in Chicago.

Describe your process.

My paintings are crimes of passion. I strive to make
the genesis of each image as unpremeditated as
possible, allowing figures, gestures, and fragments
of memory to react with one another and reveal their
own narratives with some degree of autonomy. I liken
the feeling to that of a hyper-lucid dream, in which I
am orchestrating thoughts and imagery from my own
subconscious while being continually surprised by
their arrival and significance.

What inspires you?

My studio doubles as the space my band, Trocar
Buttons, uses to rehearse and keep all of our gear,
so it's packed with drums, guitars, and lots of amps
and audio equipment. Whenever I feel stuck with a
painting, I'll make some kind of racket on a musical
instrument for a while and it will focus me again.
There are many obvious links between the two
mediums, but I feel like my approaches to them have
grown even more connected recently, in regard to

intuition, energy, and possibly, sentimentality.

What's on your cultural radar for 2015?

The *Hairy Who & The Chicago Imagists* movie, the
James Ensor exhibition at the Art Institute (through
January 25, 2015), and Bob Dylan and the Band's
complete *Basement Tapes* set. I'm currently reading Zia
Haider Rahman's novel *In the Light of What We Know*.

How would you characterize the art scene in your city?

Hardworking, vibrant, and ever-growing. Chicago has a
huge community of artists, many of whom are connected
in some way to the great art schools that are here.

What are your plans for the coming year?

I'll be continuing a cycle of large paintings I began in
my final semester of graduate school last spring, with
the intention of showing them all together sometime in
the coming months.

*"Dylan Rabe has one of the strangest, out-there,
brilliant minds, and draws up a lot of his imagery
from dreams and fantasies."* —DARJA BAJAGIC