

# CHURNER *and* CHURNER

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: **Dave Hardy**  
**The Hairy Hand**

Dates: **September 18 – November 1, 2014**  
opening reception: Thursday, September 18, 6–8PM

Churner and Churner is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new sculptures by Dave Hardy. Hardy's studies in balance and composition are composed of salvaged materials: thick sheets of glass, foam, metal, pencils, and the occasional pretzel. Layered, towered, and twinned, the objects hover at the edge of stability; yet the sculptures' seemingly precarious poise is an intentionally engineered defiance of gravity.

Of the several sculptures that Hardy created for his first exhibition at Churner and Churner, two are specifically scaled to dominate the gallery space. In one large piece, a diving board (with its "caution" stickers still attached) confronts a similarly sized pane of glass: standing upright on two foam sheets with another long sheet draped between them, the planks become improbable totems, strange bedfellows that lie somewhere between Brancusi's *Kiss* and Serra's *Prop Piece*. In a second sculpture, Hardy piles foam padding atop thin legs of glass that rest against the back wall. Such a construction feels delicate and contingent, as if its striations of muted colors were slowing slumping toward the ground. Distinguished by a constant shuttle between literal and allegorical readings, Hardy's artworks are both resolutely materialist and infused with a human scale and, more precisely, a human fragility that forces the viewer to confront them as bodies in space. They are, as Hardy has written, "abandoned monuments pushing up against each other . . . like bodies in an abject struggle with gravity and time."

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dave Hardy was born in 1969, and received an MFA from Yale University in 2004, and a BA from Brown University in 1992. Hardy has had recent solo exhibitions at Regina Rex, Queens (2013); 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y (2012); and Art in General (2009). His work has been included in group exhibitions at Bortolami Gallery and Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York (both 2014); Jack Hanley Gallery, New York (2013); The Flag Art Foundation (2009), as well as at MoMA PS 1 and Sculpture Center, New York. Hardy's work has been the subject of reviews in *Art Fag City*, the *Huffington Post*, *Flash Art*, *L Magazine*, and the *New York Times*, among others. In 2011 he was awarded a fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts, and in 2004 attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. He currently lives and works in Brooklyn.

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