

# **STEVEN DOBBIN: I REPEAT MYSELF**



# THE SILBER ART GALLERY

Sanford J. Ungar Athenaeum | Goucher College

## "I Repeat Myself"

Remember learning your multiplication tables? We often repeat things several times before they commit to our memory. As a special education teacher for over 30 years, Dobbin has established repetition and symbols as a way of survival for his students. This philosophy, repetition is the "Mother of all Learning," has informed Dobbin's aesthetic. Use of the same subject in various mediums—the grids of wood transfers, the glass jars and tins containing symbols, and, finally, the blinking neon sign—all become a reflection of our memory, and his need for order and predictability. (OCD?)

Dobbin's affinity for repetition began as a teenager while working night crew in a grocery store tasked with restocking the milk boxes or lining up the Campbell soup cans, all facing forward. (This was before he was aware of Warhol, as he concentrated on basketball in college.) His attraction to repetition was reinforced later on as he worked as a production potter—spending the mornings throwing bowl after bowl, lining them upon a 30-foot wall; just enough room for 30 bats topped with bowls or casseroles or mugs. He was more interested in the rhythm and pattern created by the rims lined up than the actual objects. He loved the repetitive meditative process of working the wheel and has carried these techniques into his studio practice to this day.

Nietzsche said repetition is the "concept of the eternal return, as the power of beginning, and beginning again." There is comfort in the knowing.



*Things Never Look  
as Scary or Violent  
in Miniature*

2016

tins, found objects,  
and wood  
15" x 15" x 4"



01

**COVER***Do Not Set Yourself on Fire*

2016

digital photo transfers on wood

82" x 75" x 3"

**01***Hostage*

2016

metal shelves, glass bottles, test strips, and cut magazine pages

77" x 7" x 2" (12 shelves in total)

**02***The Things They Carry*

2015-17

metal

12" x 14" x 3"

**03***Tally 1*

2016

17" x 23" x 1"

digital photo transfers on wood



02



03



04

All photos by Patricia Stockman

## **STEVEN DOBBIN**

Steven Michael Dobbin was born in Washington, DC. He received his B.S. in urban affairs from the University of Maryland, his Master's in Education in severely emotionally disturbed adolescents from George Washington University, and his M.F.A. from the University of Southern California. He has been represented by the Meyers/Bloom Gallery in Santa Monica, California, and is presently represented by Causey Contemporary Art in New York, New York. Steven teaches special education at Frederick High School in Frederick, Maryland. He was co-director of Artomatic@Frederick in 2011, 2013, and 2016, which displayed the work of over 400 visual artists as well as provided a venue for performance, film, and music. Steven was awarded the Maryland State Arts Council award for excellence in sculpture and has shown his work internationally and nationally for over 30 years.

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**SEPTEMBER 5 - OCTOBER 8, 2017**

**ARTIST'S RECEPTION**

**Wednesday, September 13, 6-8 p.m.**

## **THE SILBER GALLERY**

Sanford J. Ungar Athenaeum

### **GALLERY HOURS**

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Tuesday – Sunday  
410-337-6477

### **DIRECTIONS**

Baltimore Beltway,  
I-695, to exit 27A. Make  
first left onto campus.

**The exhibit is free and open to the public.**

The Silber Gallery program is funded with the assistance of grants from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency funded by the state of Maryland and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Baltimore County Commission on the Arts and Sciences.



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