

BOYD  
DYMCHUK  
AARON  
HARVEY



WAVY  
DIMENSION

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Art Gallery of Alberta  
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## **Aaron Harvey and Boyd Dymchuk**

The exhibition *Wavy Dimension* compares and contrasts artworks created by two artists, Aaron Harvey and Boyd Dymchuk, through elements such as the use of structure, line and texture in their pieces. Additionally, there's a focus on the symbolism and meaning behind certain details in the artworks, including animals, shapes, and colors, caretakers, dancers and the relationship between the artists themselves.

Aaron is a hidden mystery of colors like the northern lights—all blended together with vivid memories of his life. He works in different mediums, where Boyd only works in one. Aaron's work is described as stylized, with purposeful elements and a focus on design. There's an emphasis on his use of lines, structure, unique touches and the incorporation of architecture. Aaron utilizes mostly pencil crayons but he is not limited to that medium; he also uses acrylics, watercolors, crayons, pastels and many other elements. Aaron's work makes it quite clear he likes seagulls and buildings. He says if he could, he would have done blueprints or architecture. Aaron has a sense of transformation to his artwork; when he does his drawings he molds them into his own dimensions.

Aaron and Boyd lace together an artistic oasis. In Aaron's artistic life, he is the painter, the drawer. In Boyd's life he is the potter, who makes sculptures out of clay. When they are in the zone, they each make the work they want, but they share common ground as artists. They weave together a beautiful creation, like the northern lights do. Their artworks might seem far apart, but are they really? Aaron's masterpieces are woven with a depth of structure, and Boyd has a love of unformed structure. As they create sculptures and paintings based off of each other's objects, they mingle in a depth of understanding of their own designs.

Boyd's work is characterized as more abstract and he utilizes clay as his primary medium. His work is said to have a rounded and textured appearance. He uses clay coils. As he molds his coils together, he stuffs them with newspaper to give them dimension.

The *Wavy Dimension* highlights how Boyd's pieces are often more structured and follow certain patterns compared to Aaron's more freestyle approach. In the sculpture of life, Boyd is the maker, molder and baker of clay. There is so much precision in the details of the sculptures he makes.



**Background, left to right:** Boyd Dymchuck *Unicorn*, 2023; André the Giant, 2023. Ceramic. Courtesy of the Artist. Aaron Harvey, *André the Giant*, 2023. Acrylic on Canvas. Courtesy of the Artist.

**Foreground:** Boyd Dymchuk, *Dinosaur*, 2024. Ceramic. Courtesy of the Artist.

## Presenting the Wavy Dimension

The *Wavy Dimension* is a mythical world with unique animals and one human that protects them. Funky trees are in the environment for the animals to have a disco party like it was 1970 again. Then there is the cactus that grows amongst them. There is so much pollution beyond the *Wavy Dimension*, but if you have a look around, you'll see that it hasn't touched the *Wavy Dimension* at this time. The design of the wave symbolizes the architect and the builder of this world. The look is similar to water and a canoe. The artists' combined work symbolizes love of nature.

Life in *Wavy Dimension* is just a fun time with the protector of animals. When you first come to the *Wavy Dimension* you will be confronted with waves of joy, love and the overwhelming presence that comes from this world and its life. Don't cry over the world—it has more love and a unique ability to pull at your heart strings.

### Giant Jungle Man (*André the Giant*)

He is the human protector of the *Wavy Dimension*—the only human amongst all the animals. Using his feet-hands, he outwits his opponents using his mind and his head as he strikes a big blow. The proportions are gigantic. This is what makes him feel like a real giant. The Giant Jungle Man is like, “Okay I'm here. I'm a giant. I'm a fighter.” He's more of a concrete person in mid-movement, almost like a dancer. Wrestlers are larger than life, almost mythical. The piece totally adds to the idea of the Jungle Man being like a mythical or larger-than-life giant.

Aaron's version of the giant looks like he has skates on his feet or like he's dancing. There is a bird on his shirt as well, there are birds in a lot of Aaron's work. Aaron could design a special birdhouse. It could be that Aaron wishes to fly or maybe birds represent that his grandma is in heaven and he's reaching towards her. Why do you think he portrayed it that way?

### Brachiosaurus

There is a special bond between a man and his dinosaurs. A modern version of a brachiosaurus has come to the Art Gallery of Alberta. Boyd tried to do a realistic brachiosaurus but was influenced by Aaron's drawing. The sculptor made unique pronged feet, and his back is larger than the front. The long neck

is facing his “D”-shaped tail. In a way, Boyd made it in a shape like a tea kettle or a watering can. The earthy tone is in itself a mixture from gray to brown to red and even to sleek black. The shiny tone of the dinosaur is in contrast to the stark black and white of the feet. Texture is also key—the Brachiosaurus has a spine from the neck to its tail. In Aaron’s picture, the tail is on the ground so it’s more of an oval shape, where the feet are like flag ends. The mouth is shaped like the eye. He has a big booty in Aaron’s picture, where the tail is under the belly and playing with the feet.

### **The Caretaker (*Unicorn*)**

Boyd’s sculpture compared to Aaron’s painting is more eclectic. It feels upbeat or peaceful. The sculpture has muted tones of salmon pink, and its flowing tail and mane are characteristic of braiding. Its head is down like it’s drinking water whereas in Aaron’s it’s up looking at the buildings. In Aaron’s piece, this animal looks part elephant with horns, has a fish’s mouth and eyes and a unicorn’s body. Unicorns supported people and helped them through things. Fish are providers, and some are protectors of other fish. Elephants also care for humans. Because of this, I deemed this creature “the caretaker of Jungle Man”, because sometimes the Jungle Man gets overwhelmed with his tasks. Boyd is more carefree with his measurements but is more focused on texture and his medium. It’s all curvy lines so it kind of tricks you into thinking that it has dimensions.

### **Reindeer**

They look like jukeboxes, don’t they? One has two knobs and a button to press but there’s more than that. In both, the lines are unique—they have dark and light colors that you typically see in a lot of musical instruments.

Boyd rounds all of his sculptures—even the antlers are rounded. Aaron put lines on his deer, where Boyd has put circles. Boyd put an orange tongue, while Aaron’s has a completely orange mouth. Boyd’s nose looks to me like a witch’s hat with a brim on it, whereas Aaron’s looks more like a flower. Maybe Boyd was trying to do reins, like an animal being reined in.

Boyd’s animals and wrestlers are lifelike, and then he adds his own touches to them. Boyd’s feel like both objects and creatures, whereas Aaron’s do feel more



Aaron Harvey, *Unicorn*, 2023. Watercolour on paper. Courtesy of the Artist

like designs. In a way it is a reindeer but it also looks like a bison or a buffalo because they have a rounded back.

### **Holey Giraffe**

Aaron's giraffe has a neat configuration like Swiss cheese with sky. Why do you think Aaron made a holey giraffe? Maybe he wants to have a window into the giraffe to see how it works. There is also a possibility that he is making a "giraffe-scraper." Boyd's has texture like a dice. He must enjoy games or dice because he has a few "dicey" objects. In Boyd's, the giraffe has a mane and tail that needs a haircut. Whereas in Aaron's art he has trees that need a trim or two. They might be different in size, shape, color and many other things but they represent the same animal and have a similar feeling.

### **Donkey**

Aaron and Boyd made donkeys that I dubbed "Old Blue Jeans" because of the color. Aaron's donkey is majestic and prominent in stature, from the regal colors to the wavy legs, to the flow of its tail. The legs have a wavy look, perhaps like bacon or disco-themed stripes. What do you think the donkey might represent? Do the vertical stripes create tension, tranquility or serenity in the picture? The green with brown stripes in the background suggests acid, warning of an unhealthy earth.

In Boyd's, the donkey is a beautiful blue sky and peaceful pasture brown, with an orange tongue—a mixture of powerful colors. The feet are rocks immersed in water, and the tongue looks like a surfboard. The space from the crown down to the eyes reminds me of a big crowd watching the surfer-tongue. The donkey's shoes are positively cool, and its texture is like sand collected from when the donkey may have rolled on the beach. The lines are a peaceful and vivid display representing an old worn-out creature. The shiny and sleek polished look evokes the sun bouncing off a real donkey.

### **The Polar Moose**

In Aaron's moose there are antlers that have a wavy tune. In a cool way, it looks like a pig. Boyd's is a mixture of polar bear and moose, dubbed the "Polar Moose." Aaron's has more of a grid of the dots on the body, whereas Boyd's dots are more linear. Aaron made a mane, where Boyd made a tail. The background in Aaron's is orange whereas in Boyd's the tongue is orange. What does the orange mean to you?





**Left:** Boyd Dymchuk, *Giraffe*, 2023. Ceramic. Courtesy of the Artist.

**Right:** Aaron Harvey, *Giraffe*, 2023. Watercolour on paper. Courtesy of the Artist.

The meaning of orange originally came from the rainbow meaning cheerful, mysterious or cautious (as in construction), and it symbolizes spiritual influences. It's hard for orange not to be arrogant, selfish and impatient. I am not sure of the symbolic meaning for Boyd's orange tongue, but I feel like the colour, for me as the writer, is a mystery in itself.

### **Majestic Lion**

Boyd's lion has an orange tongue in its large roaring mouth, with lips that are white and orange. I think it mimics roaring or maybe eating. What do you think the mouth is mimicking? The teeth are pearly white, and the sizes are a bit disproportionate. For a lion, the teeth are fairly clean. The blue shiny eyes are big and bold like the lion is. The cool goatee looks like homemade noodles while its hair is made of smaller threads like broken instant noodles. The tail is larger than life and it looks like a broom with a handle. The claws are realistic where the feet themselves are flat like a large "J" or an "L." Boyd's lion's ears look like a cup handle. The tears show a moment in time; the lion might be a sad lion, or he could have lost his pride. The old lion has a neat texture. Some lines look like it's been in a few fights, or the bumps are an allergic reaction.

### **Young vs Old Bombardment**

Monkey, monkey, what do you see? Suited up for some business class bombardment, or as a first-class custodian? These two monkeys are mischievous fun time monkeys. In the picture they're going to a mischievous store so then they can do some fun activities for themselves—business class fun activities. Their ears are two different dimensions. The monkey with the shorter arms has larger ears, maybe he has a fatherly role, someone more adept at listening. The other is like a son, who wants to have fun but is more immature.

The sculpture seems to be trying to make penguins. There is a joyfulness to penguins too—they love to dance and sing as they look over their loved ones. They also have a tuxedo look to them, but penguins are more supportive and caring than the monkeys are.

### **Lobster**

Aaron's drawing is a lobster with lemon, lime, peppercorns and bay leaves, so he was thinking about food when he made it. However, Boyd's represents the

ocean—it's a living lobster. It's a bright red colour where Aaron's is deep crimson red, like it's been cooked. There is more flow with Boyd's—he wants to show the story of a living animal. All of his sculptures are based on animals you'd find in nature. Aaron's lobster looks like it's been put on a platter. He tries to make it something that he would enjoy eating. Boyd's lobster has many unique traits. Boyd's is one of a kind: from the unique shape of the claws, to the very long tail, to the eyes on top of the head, to the “V“-shaped mouth, to the antennas, to the different feet. It's even able to stand up on its own. The red is like the sun, so bright it is glistening. The texture is reminiscent of barnacles, can you see where they are? The lines on the body are those of an old, seasoned lobster who has been in a scuffle or two.

### **The Bat**

The bat is a unique flying mammal that uses echolocation. Aaron's is colorful with precious diamonds on him. There are blends of red, black, purple, yellow and brown that look like it has a Mexican flair. The deep purple has a nightly sky appearance that is similar to the northern lights. The bat hangs precariously on the tree twig, with unique leaves similar to a diamond shape. All the animals have a bond to the Giant Jungle Man, and this is represented through orange components. Where do you find the orange in them?

I imagine the bat flies over and awakens the other animals into a rhythm. As day turns into night, the animals from the air, land and water join the human and have fun singing, dancing up a storm and teasing each other.

### **Conclusion**

The world of *Wavy Dimension* started with the artists themselves who are friends, like the animals and Giant Jungle Man. While Boyd and Aaron are separate and while they have their own beliefs of what they want in this world, they're among each other in this show. *Wavy Dimension* is the result of the dreams, love and the overall presence of the two artists immersed in this project. While Aaron and Boyd use different mediums, they intertwined their works together as one. There is a calming effect to what they do as they mold and paint their work, and that is reflected in the *Wavy Dimension*.





Installation view of Boyd Dymchuk and Aaron Harvey *Wavy Dimension*.



**Left to right:** Boyd Dymchuk, *Horse*, 2023; *Monkey I*, 2023; *Monkey II*, 2023. Ceramic. Courtesy of the Artist.  
Aaron Harvey, *Monkeys*, 2023. Coloured pencil on paper. Courtesy of the Artist

### **Shantel Timmerman Bio**

Shantel started at Nina Haggerty in January 2023 and was the award winner for Emerging Artist of the Year. She is a bold artist and loves her monoprints of animals and nature. She does other mediums like pottery, ceramics, painting, markers, sewing and many others. She has a dynamic personality and is modest in nature. She does very interesting writing, with a flair to her design of words. She started for her mental health and has grown in doing her first art critique and writing this book. She also owes it to her faith because she wouldn't have done this any other way. She also wants to thank the following people: Lindsey Sharman, the Art Gallery of Alberta, the Nina Haggerty staff, Hilary, Janice, and Maddi, and also her Mom, Melanie and Wics staff for their help.



