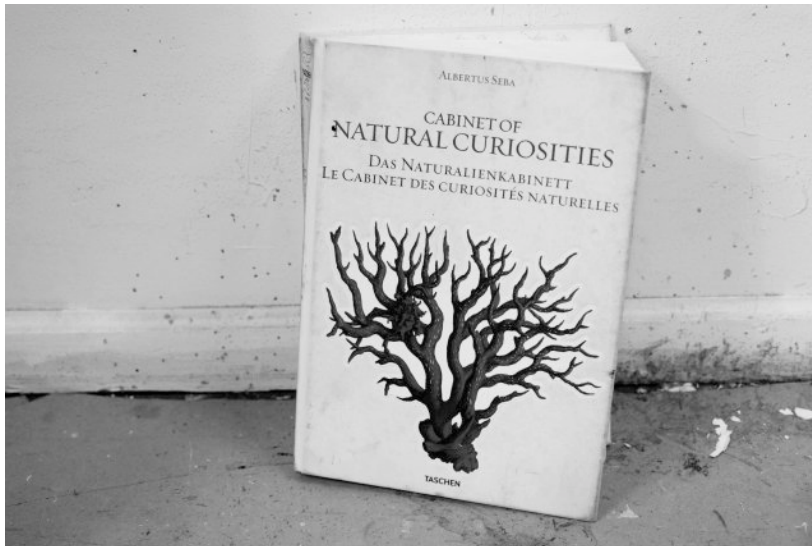


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A Natural Curiosity | A Studio Visit with Bill Saylor

On our recent visit to the studio of Brooklyn based artist Bill Saylor, a sea of sketches spilled across the floor to meet us. Many were drawings Saylor was re-visiting from a recent collaborative project of 150 works with Aidas Bareikis shown at Chelsea gallery Shoot the Lobster.

Friends for years, Bareikis and Saylor sent each other drawings over the course of two months, "by the end of it, it was like looking at someone else's show, we both felt that, it was almost like a whole new identity, I was happy that I wouldn't know what they would be like until I got them back."

Saylor likes to seek out the unexpected, drawing out uncertain and surprising forms from the seemingly static and ordinary. We spotted *The Cabinet of Natural Curiosities* propped against the wall. Flicking through the pages, Saylor showed us precise renderings of anemones, sea serpents and primordial squid. In his sketchbooks Saylor takes these rigid, stippled creatures and lets them loose, "the forms become so flexible once you are in your own complete world."

Saylor recently received a work that had been in Tokyo for the past five years, "I hadn't seen it in so long, so I pulled it out, it's a little graphic, it's a little weird to see it now, I would start at that time by just gluing imagery onto it, I didn't care, I wasn't trying to make a proper painting, maybe I was just making crap then I don't know!"

In Saylor's recent work he's found a way to refine his process, "I still have the same attitude and deliveries, I've learnt how to articulate my gestures, accidents and spills and fuck ups, it becomes more free and loose but it's still familiar, the same adding and subtracting." A new

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work, started that morning, awaited a many-limbed, mischievous creature with the right form and sinister smile to slosh around in Saylor's primeval soup of splatters and streaks.

Bill Saylor is currently working on a project with fellow artist Bill Powers and EXHIBITION a (exhibitiona.com), a members only website dedicated to providing exclusive editions of artwork by top contemporary artists.

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