

# BETTY BOWEN AWARD THIRTY YEARS



Jeffrey Bishop combines geometric shapes and medical charts of brain scans to create oil paintings inspired by biology, the human body, and digital imaging. His paintings are created through an exhaustive process of projecting computer images from different angles and tracing them onto a canvas. His works appear to be heavily influenced by graphic design, with their clean lines, crisp colors, and smooth two-dimensional backgrounds. His sources of inspiration have included brain scans showing the progression of his father's Alzheimer's disease, landscapes, and repetitive organic shapes.

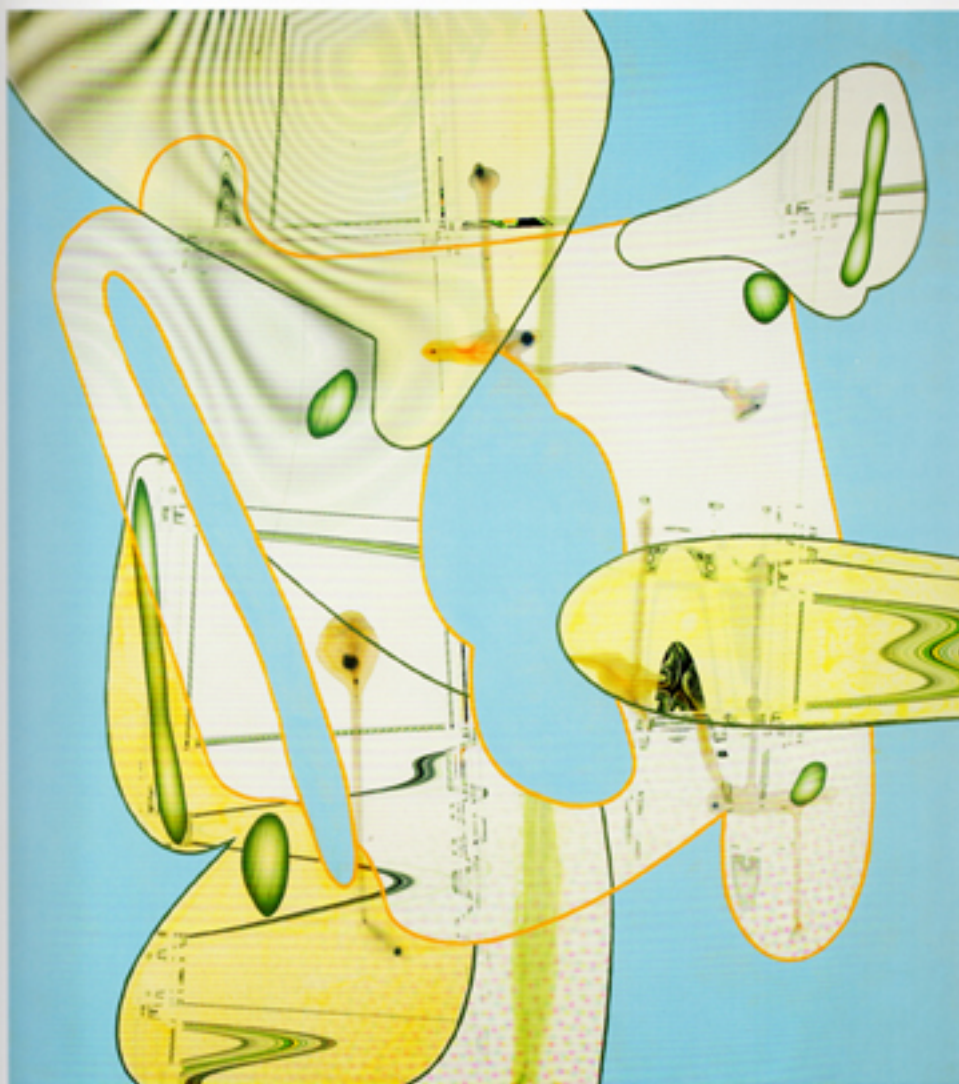
Organic forms consistently appear in Bishop's recent compositions. *Magellan* (2006) is a perfect example of these asymmetrical objects. Painting over a light-blue background, Bishop combines abstract allusions to shadowed canyons, coffee stains, and marbled paper, with pixilated dots and bright colors to create multiple layers and dimensions in the composition. Each of the liquid forms is slightly different from the rest, but all are connected through the white, green, and orange color palette and the lines swimming through the canvas. Bishop layers each figure in such a way that the viewer cannot determine whether the shapes are in the foreground and the solid blue surrounding them is in the background or the reverse. The crisp lines dividing the various elements into two distinct segments gives stability to the floating form, but they also evoke uncertainty by confusing the viewer's grasp of spatial relationships. The differing shapes look like they are liquids, an effect that can be attributed to the artistic process in Bishop's work combining digital images and painting on canvas.

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Jeffrey Bishop was born in 1949 in Berkeley, California. He completed his BFA at Tufts University in Boston in 1973 and received a fifth-year diploma from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 1974. After completing his undergraduate education, Bishop moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington and graduated in 1977 with an MFA. He taught at Cornish College of the Arts for eight years. His recent exhibitions have included *Recent Paintings: Jeffrey Bishop* at OMT Gallery, Boston (2006); *Spring Highlights* at Winston Wachter Fine Art, Seattle (2006); and *Recent Paintings: Jeffrey Bishop* at Catherine Person Gallery, Seattle (2008). Bishop currently lives in Brooklyn, but he is still involved with the Northwest arts community. He has been a member of the Betty Bowen Award Committee since the 1990s, and he is on the advisory board of Henry Art Gallery.

1982 | JEFFREY BISHOP

AMERICAN, BORN 1949



**MAGELLAN**

2006, OIL, ENK, AND ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 36 x 32 IN., COURTESY OF THE ARTIST