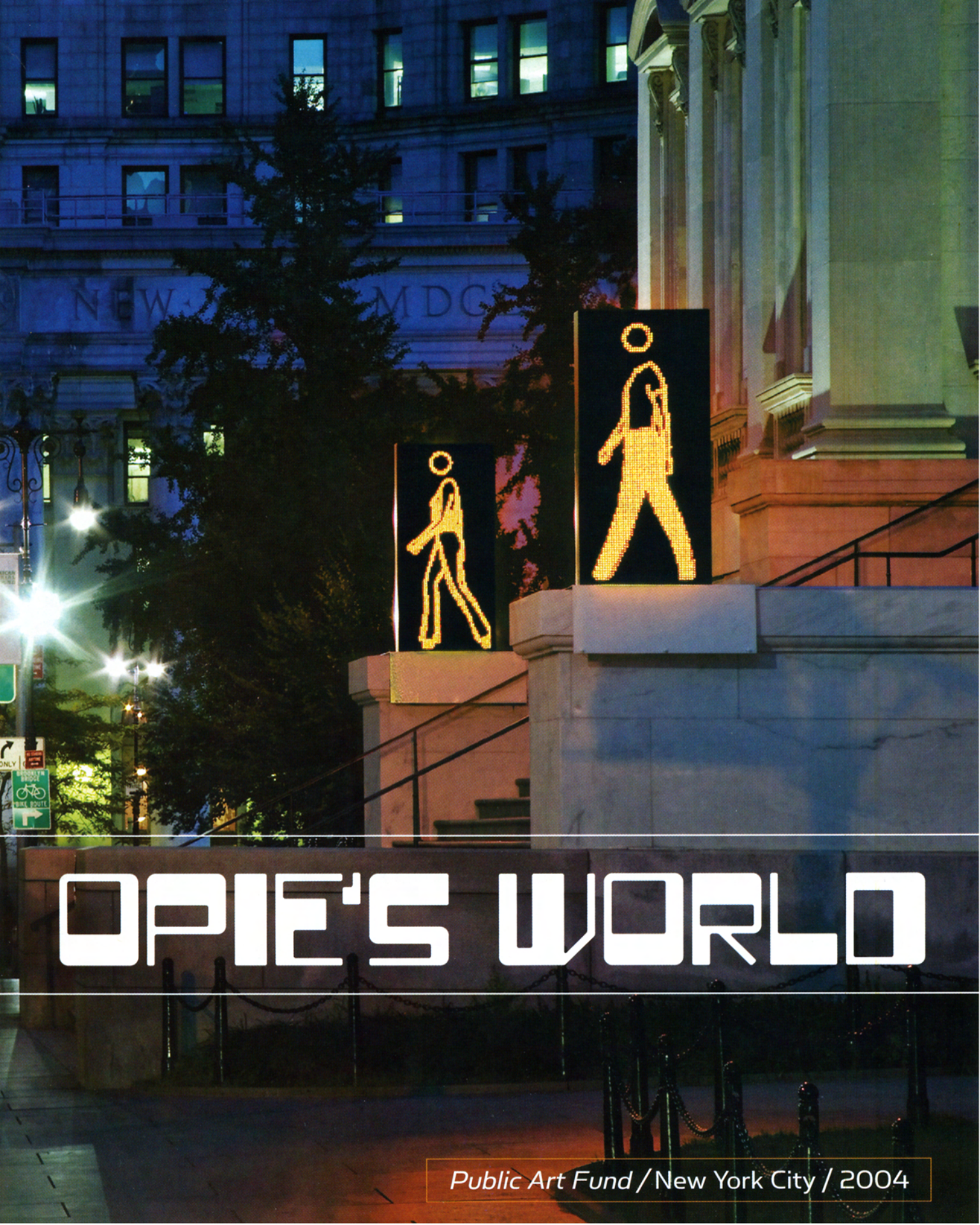
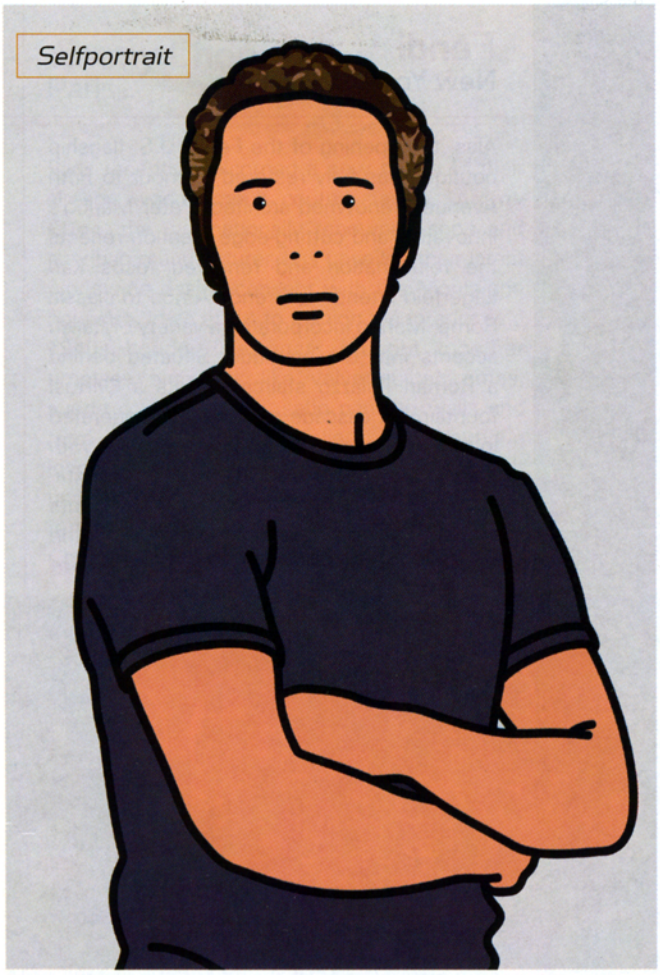


OPIE'S WORLD

Public Art Fund / New York City / 2004



Enter the world of London's most prolific artist, Julian Opie.

By Jen Mendenhall

What do the rudimentary technologies of the '80s, wooden sheep and Formula One racing have to do with art? For Julian Opie, they are the signature pieces of a longstanding and critically acclaimed career. I first had the opportunity to view Julian Opie's work when his exhibit *Animals, Buildings, Cars and People* arrived at Manhattan's City Hall Park in 2004. Opie's multicolored wooden sculptures of cows, chicken and other barnyard animals transformed New York's infamous concrete jungle into the farm of my childhood years. I instantly experienced what Opie describes as, "a moment of communication" between art and viewer. Julian's artistic expression is far more multifaceted than what may appear upon first glance. His collections challenge the distinction between film, sculpture and painting, carefully interpreting the complex relationship of reality and imagination. He distills images



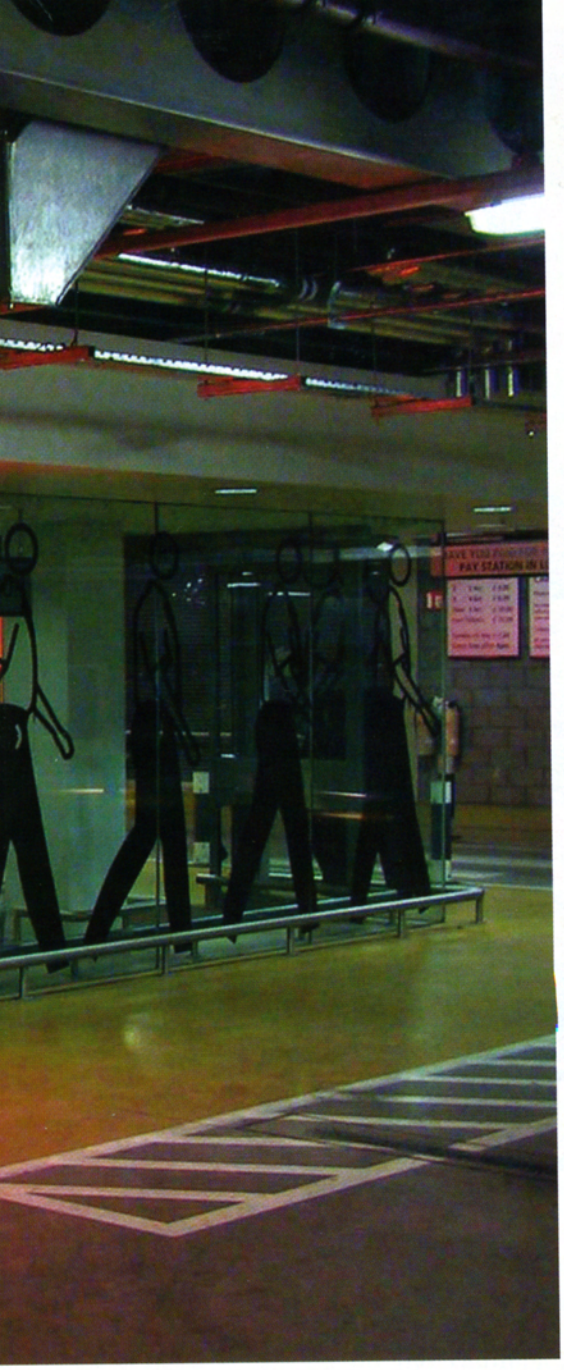


Walk, Walk, Walk / Selfridges, U.K. / 2003

from the world around him and renders them to provoke a relationship between objects and people. Simply put, Julian Opie's straight edge lines and elementary shapes create a symbolic experience behind the more meditative and pragmatic movements of life. "I am always referring to the world, to things that seem poignant to me and then try to synthesize or make my version of these things," explained Opie. "I am not trying to invent anything, I am melding together a lot of normals—normal imagery and normal poses."

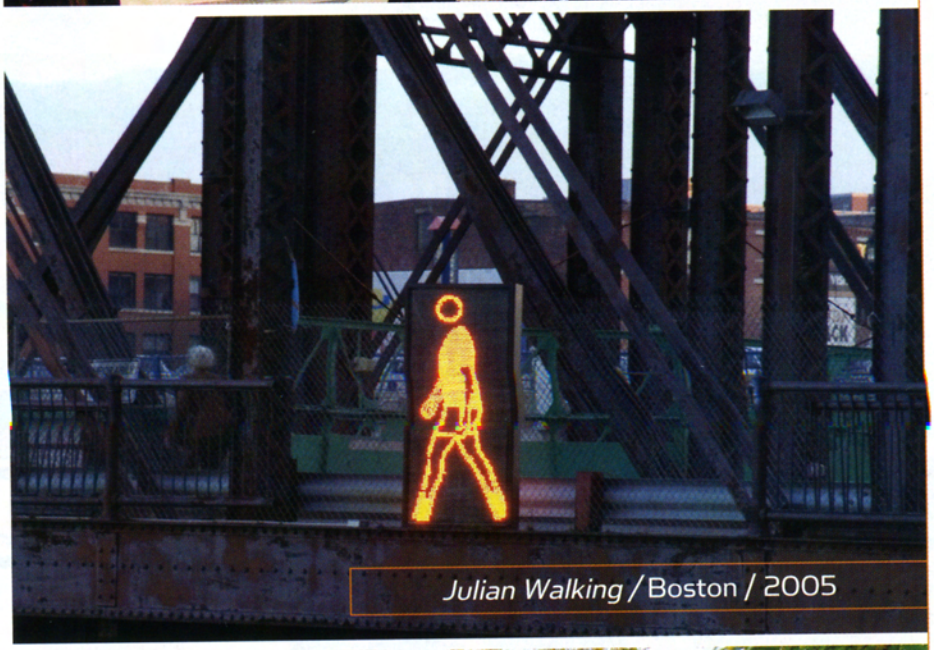
Last year Julian's artistic reach extended globally, with shows running in Tokyo, Spain, Indonesia, Norway and the United States. For Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art's Eighth Annual Vita Brevis Project, Opie constructed animated, life-size portraitures, *Julian and Suzanne.* The two characters walk endlessly in place 24 hours a day along the outside edge of Boston's Northern Avenue Bridge. Rounding off a feverishly busy year, U2 commissioned Opie to create a rhythmic and animated visual for their Vertigo World Tour and Portugal's Mário Sequeira Gallery welcomed the arrival of *Julian Opie,* his most representative and comprehensive solo collection to date.

Often compared to the pop art collections of Warhol and Lichtenstein, Opie's work represents a new breed of contemporary compositions that will be influencing the next generation of artists to follow.





Formula One Commission / Milan / 2002



Julian Walking / Boston / 2005





Animals, Buildings, Cars and People / New York City / 2004

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