

**W Magazine Online:** 'Justin Adian - The New York artist's work treads the line between painting and sculpture', by Meghan Dailey, June 26th 2014



Photograph by James  
McKee.

## Justin Adian

### The New York artist's work treads the line between painting and sculpture.

About five years ago, the New York artist Justin Adian found some foam filling on the street. Inspired, he brought it to his Brooklyn studio, intending to make a sculpture. "It didn't work," Adian says of the finished product, which looked like a cushion mounted on a wall—or, worse yet, the work of the American artist John Chamberlain. "I liked it, but it wasn't mine." So Adian, 37, turned to what felt familiar. "Because I think like a painter, my solution was to stretch canvas over the foam."

Adian's stretched canvases crease like skin around the edges of squared cushions, soft-edged planks, and rectangular bolsters in wall pieces that have attracted big collectors like Michael Ovitiz. Sometimes their parts overlap; other times they are designed to be placed in a corner. "I think of my work as paintings, but I have no problem with people calling them sculptures," he says. Next year,