

PRESS RELEASE

St. Louis, January 30, 2017 — Bruno David presents six exhibitions by Charles Schwall, Douglass Freed, Xizi Liu, Frank Schwaiger, Monika Wulfers and Story Stitchers Collective.

Exhibitions Dates: March 2 – 25, 2017

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 2, 2017, from 5 to 9 pm

Gallery Talk with the artists: Saturday, March 25th at 4 pm

CHARLES SCHWALL *Breaking, Splitting, Seaming*

DOUGLASS FREED *Reflection...Noitcelfer*

XIZI LIU *Indoor Landscapes*

STORY STITCHERS COLLECTIVE *Curating Teen Voices: Coming of Age*

FRANK SCHWAIGER *Ondine*

MONIKA WULFERS *Open Lights*



Bruno David Gallery
7513 Forsyth Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63105

Free and open to the public
Wednesday through Saturday
10 am – 5 pm – also open by appointment

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In **Gallery 1**, the gallery presents an exhibition of recent paintings by **Charles Schwall** titled “Breaking, Splitting, Seaming.” This is the artist’s third solo exhibition with the gallery.

Schwall's work investigates a longstanding interest in curvilinear and organic formations found in nature connected to life, growth, water imagery, and the life sciences. In each work, interdependent elements create compositions that explore diverse organic systems and are evocative of flora and fauna of the natural world. His aesthetic explores trajectories of growth, the expansion of organic systems, and morphology (the form of living organisms and their structures). Compositions are created through the use of overlapping forms and visual elements that come together, touch, and in one sense caress one another. There is interplay of containment and lack of containment among the energy transferred among the distinct relational parts. Color is an essential element employed to compose the spaces of the paintings.



His most recent works on paper explore forms of change (processes that are taken apart, torn, split, or severed) and forms of union (processes that are seamed together, reconnected, or joined). These works explore the relationship of human culture to nature, and seek to create gendered space by combining forms that reference the natural world with cultural references taken from textiles, forms of clothing, and fashion. Symmetry, asymmetry, and surfaces that mirror one another and reveal the contents from another place are also key concepts in the work. Indeterminacy and fluidity of meaning within the context of gendered space provides viewers with opportunities to reconsider what can be revealed when looking deeper or beyond what is immediately obvious.

As an educator, Schwall studied the educational system in the municipality of Reggio-Emilia, Italy, and co-edited and co-authored the book, *In the Spirit of the Studio: Learning from the Atelier of Reggio Emilia*. He holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA from Sam Fox School of Visual Arts - Washington University in St. Louis. He lives and works in Kansas City. In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish a catalogue of the artist’s work with an exhibition history and bibliography.

In **Gallery 4**, the gallery is pleased to present an group exhibition titled *Curating Teen Voices: Coming of Age* organized by Mariana Parisca and Susan Colangelo with the youth members of the Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective and Heather Bennett, Michael Byron, Carmon Colangelo, Addoley Dzegede, Ann Hamilton, Kahlil Irving and, Buzz Spector.

Curating Teen Voices: Coming of Age is a time capsule of teenage voices combined with adult artists living in St. Louis in 2015-16, all reacting to a critical and unique time in the history of race relations, gun violence, police roles and community relationships in the city of St. Louis, Missouri. Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective is a nonprofit organization where artists and urban youth collect stories, reframe and retell them through art to promote understanding, civic pride, and literacy. The project eloquently puts a megaphone to unheard voices, generating new respect for minority youth and brushing implicit biases away. There is no other program in St. Louis, or in the United States, that is generating work in this way.

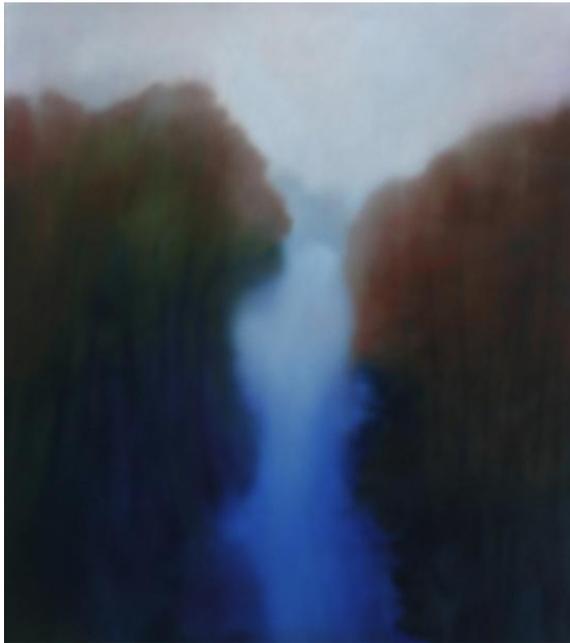


The project contains an edition of 10 portfolios, each containing 30 archival digital prints. Each portfolio is housed in a handcrafted archival box created by Saint Louis Story Stitchers artist-in-residence Mariana Parisca. A limited number of sheets of six images will be available. Proceeds will benefit the ongoing work of the Saint Louis Story Stitchers.

Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council and, the National Endowment for the Arts. *Curating Teen Voices: Coming of Age* is based on the *Youth Art and Writing Contest, 2015* and *Curating Teen Voices Workshop Series* which were supported in part by the Kranzberg Arts Center, Yvette and John Dubinsky Family Foundation, Susan Sanders Block and The Designing Block, Washington University in St. Louis, and the Regional Arts Commission (RAC).

In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish a catalogue of the artists' work with an exhibition history.

In **Gallery 3**, the gallery presents an exhibition of recent paintings by **Douglass Freed** titled “Small Reflections.” This is the artist’s second solo exhibition with the gallery.



The landscapes of Douglass Freed can seldom be contained to one canvas. His minimalistic and almost ambiguous images of horizons, clouds, and bodies of water pour onto adjoining spaces where their forms shift in color and light as if they have transformed into entirely different pieces, but they remain undeniably suited to one another. While his pieces vary from quiet, monochromatic works to fully orchestrated chromatic ones, in either sense, he creates places that simultaneously imply reality and a dreamlike, even spiritual, serenity. He captures and holds onto the viewer’s gaze, creating an experience that few can. Through his harmonious use of blended color, texture, and structure, Freed finds the grey area between traditional landscape painting and its abstraction into color fields.

Douglass Freed lives and works in Missouri. He received his BFA and MFA from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas and is a nationally exhibiting artist with over fifty solo exhibitions. He has had work published in over sixty reviews and publications including *The New York Times*, *The New York Art Review*, *The New Art Examiner*, *Art in America*, *Arts Magazine*, *Kansas City Review*, *Kansas City Star*, *The St. Louis Tribune*, and *New American Paintings*.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish a catalogue of the artist’s work with an exhibition history and bibliography.

In **Gallery 2**, the gallery presents an exhibition of recent paintings titled “Indoor Landscapes.” by **Xizi Liu**. This is the artist’s first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Xizi Liu’s work uses stylized painting methods to create a quasi-fictional consumer society in the contemporary economic environment, and explores different attitudes toward consumption and mass production, which the consumerism brings to us through the mechanical vision. In addition, her work portrays the power of information transmission from hidden language and painterly gesture, which replaced the alphabet in non-places.



No region in the world has undergone such rapid and profound economic and cultural changes as China in the last decades. As a part of the generation born in the late 20th century, Xizi Liu has witnessed the country’s feverish progress, technological innovations, and rapid economic growth. The subjects she chooses are heavily rooted in her experience growing up amidst frenzied transformations in China, followed by its subsequent unbearable urban density. The flattened surfaces - while depicting a complex, highly torqued deep space - use the accumulation of individual colors to contribute to that space, creating the sense of dizziness and turbulence.

She paints places where we easily find language, but the language is missing in the paintings. All those paintings are filled by the empty carriers of language. Her gesture is the language, and this language of the brush replaces words. No content or brand names are revealed; characters are anonymous; objects lack specificity, and it is impossible to distinguish one from another. They are meaningless objects immersed in an indistinct world. She uses a highly stylized painting method to create a surreal city that’s filled with fantasy. These flattened pictorial spaces are based on the desirable products. They are emotionless and explore the vanity and fantasy of the Pop Culture amidst urban chaos. They also bear her critical position and commentary on the manipulation of capitalism. The paintings based on capitalist society depict a culture in which choices depend on desires rather than needs, and where production is meaningless. The rigid, faceless, even headless people in her paintings artfully show the de-individualization and overwhelming nature of consumer culture, the cold relationships, and lack of freedom of people in the modern society. She transforms space and objects that disturb the ‘normal’ order and rhythm of urban life, in order to find new physical and conceptual spaces.

Xizi Liu was born in China. She lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a M.F.A. candidate (2017) at the Sam Fox School of Visual Arts - Washington University in St. Louis. In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish a catalogue of the artist’s work with an exhibition history and bibliography.

In **Gallery 5**, the gallery presents a sculpture by **Frank Schwaiger** titled “Ondine.”

Frank Schwaiger is currently having a solo exhibition “Recent Works” at our second location – Bruno David Projects. The location is in The Grove and is open by appointment only.

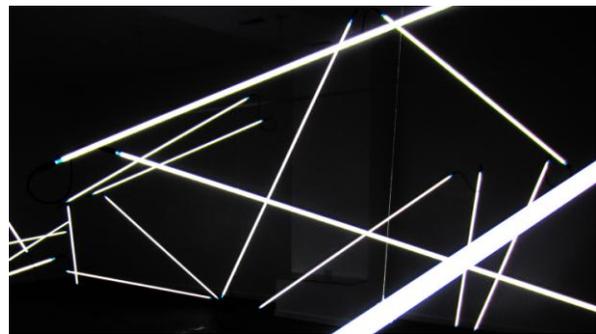
Schwaiger’s work has been widely exhibited. He is a graduate of the Washington University in St. Louis, School of Architecture (Now the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts), and received his M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, where he worked with Buckminster Fuller. He lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri.



In the **Window on Forsyth** space, the gallery presents “Open Lights” by **Monika Wulfers**. This is her third solo exhibition with the gallery. This exhibition can be seen 24/7 from the outside and, will be on view through April 29, 2017.

Monika Wulfers explores the concept of line in minimalist sculptures and paintings, as well as computer generated images and constructs. Various representations of lines and shapes created by lines are seen in her work which draws upon spatial and temporal constructs. She uses two and three dimensions to examine the line and our perception of it.

Monika Wulfers was born in Berlin, Germany. She lives and works in Chicago, IL. She received her M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her B.A. from North Central College, Naperville, Illinois. Wulfers has exhibited her art in such museums as the Museum of West Bohemia, Czech Republic; Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, Illinois; Kunst Mit Eigensinn, Museum Moderner Kunst, Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, Vienna, Austria; The Art Institute of Chicago; Goethe Institute Chicago; University of California, Riverside, California; Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen, Germany; DePaul University, Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The Kemper Collection, Chicago, Illinois.



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For general information and press inquiries please contact Bruno L. David or Cleo Kelly at info@brunodavidgallery.com

Charles Schwall, Douglass Freed, Xizi Liu, Frank Schwaiger, Monika Wulfers, members of the Story Stickers Collective, Bruno L. David, Cleo Kelly are available for interviews.

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ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Specializing in contemporary art, Bruno David Gallery and Bruno David Projects has been a leading art gallery since its establishment in Saint Louis in 2005. Bruno David represents some of the most innovative artists practicing in Saint Louis, along with artists of international reputation. Bruno David Gallery's art program introduces new contemporary art to local gallery visitors, and is discussed in publications including, *Art in America*, *Art Papers*, *ArtNet Magazine*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Follow the gallery on **TWITTER** @bdavidgallery and @bdavidprojects and via the hashtags #BrunoDavidGallery #BrunoDavidProjects #GoSeeArt #BrunoDavidGalleryPublications #CharlesSchwall #DouglassFreed #XiziLiu #FrankSchwaiger #MonikaWulfers #STLStoryStickers

Visit the artists and their shows on **ARTSY** at artsy.net/bruno-david-gallery

Visit the gallery on **INSTAGRAM** at instagram.com/brunodavidgallery/

FACEBOOK (facebook.com/brunodavidgallery) and **GOOGLE+** (plus.google.com/112677784125453318003)

Read the gallery news and its artists on our blog **GOOD ART NEWS** at goodartnews.com/

Read our eBook publications on **ISSUU** at issuu.com/brunodavidgallery or purchase them at **LULU** lulu.com/spotlight/brunodavidgallerypublications

Bruno David Gallery was first established by Bruno David in New York City (1983) and later in St. Louis (2005).

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