

**NEWS RELEASE**

BRUNO DAVID GALLERY FOUR NEW EXHIBITIONS,  
OPENING SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020

**LESLIE LASKEY**

*Amaryllis Land*

**RYAN ECKERT**

*This is Romance*

**DAMON FREED**

*Structure and Void*

**ANDREA STANISLAV**

New Media Room

*Blow Away*

**KELLEY JOHNSON**

Window on Forsyth

*Sculptural Patterns*

Opening Reception:  
Saturday, January 18. 6-8 pm

January 10 – February 22, 2020

Clayton Location:  
Bruno David Gallery: 7513 Forsyth Boulevard, Saint Louis, MO 63105 (free parking)

(SAINT LOUIS, MO — January 5, 2020) — Bruno David Gallery will feature four new exhibitions. A new series of paintings by St. Louis-based multi-disciplinary artist **Leslie Laskey**, a new series of paintings by Sedalia-based artist **Damon Freed**; new works on paper by Phoenix-based artist **Ryan Eckert**; a video work by multi-disciplinary/conceptual artist **Andréa Stanislav**; a sculpture installation by **Kelley Johnson** in the gallery's vitrine space WINDOW ON FORSYTH.

(over, please)

Bruno David is pleased to present ***Amaryllis Land***, an exhibition by St. Louis-based artist **Leslie Laskey**. This will be Laskey's thirteen exhibition with the gallery. In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish a catalogue of the works with an exhibition history and bibliography.

Leslie Laskey's latest series *Amaryllis Land* is an experimentation of form, color, and medium that seeks to discover how the same object can make many individual statements. The flowers he draws, and paints are not just that; Leslie compares the movement of the petals to dancers on a stage, a stage he crafts through geometric shapes carefully laid out in naturalistic shades of oil paint. Some paintings feature a single flower, large and central, paying close attention to the beauty of the individual form, while his larger collages make use of ripped paper layered together to mimic the formation of petals. The arrangement of each element works together to create a story or a feeling that the flowers are talking amongst themselves within their frames.



This work began several years ago in Leslie's own garden when he became intrigued with the fallen *Amaryllis* flowers and the marks they left on the ground. Using the flower itself as a mark-making tool he applies the color and organic material directly to his canvas or paper, creating surfaces that are both natural and full of motion while simultaneously controlled and contemplative. The soft pink and red shades left by the crushed petals direct Leslie's color palette; muted blues and greens are punctuated by bright reds as he builds different visual environments and relationships within each piece.

With an expansive background in design, Leslie will often start his process by identifying a problem to solve or question to answer. In this series he asks, "How many ways can I describe the things I love?" He does so by not only gracefully depicting the *Amaryllis*, but also by exploring the larger context in which these forms relate to the world surrounding him.

Leslie Laskey studied at Indiana University and at the Institute of Design in Chicago (now the Illinois Institute of Technology) with founder and American Bauhaus pioneer Lászlò Moholy-Nagy. Currently, he divides his time between St. Louis, MO and Manistee, MI. He is a Professor Emeritus of Architecture at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis.

( The name *Amaryllis* is taken from a shepherdess in Virgil's pastoral *Eclogues*, (from the Greek ἀμαρύσσω (*amarysso*), meaning "to sparkle") and from "Amarella" for the bitterness of the bulb. )

Bruno David is pleased to present ***Structure and Void***, an exhibition by Missouri-based artist **Damon Freed**. This will be Freed's seventh exhibition with the gallery. In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish a catalogue of the works with an exhibition history and bibliography.

"There are two things I know about in this world, and this is the need for structure and void. The world needs structure currently. With so much tumultuous activity politically we need structure. So, I have provided it within these works. But also, void space. The resilience of space. The epic spaces in between lush with color, weeping colors. Without structure one cannot perceive the void.

It begins with structure and ends in voids, my paintings do. A void. A softened space. Yet, a gesture lingers for miles. A simple gesture of the brush. For miles and miles within it might resonate. My gesture... a simple gesture. And it is present in these works.



So, all in all, these paintings are about color, structure, void, and gesture. Their vibe is subtle to me, yet strict in its design. Most of the paintings begin guided by an inner inspiration that comes to me, a visualization of form. From there, I begin to write it down. I sometimes work on a blank sheet of paper but at other times on graph paper. I like the grid, it pleases me. Structure is necessary when building my paintings. When graphing the visuals. I have inspirations mostly in color. It is always about depicting the inspiration as closely as I can!

You see, in this way it is not me, not my hand guiding what comes to mind, only my will drawing it out. So, yes, it is me. But something else is part of the process, something unknown. And I think this spirit is where it's at. That part, the spirit of the work is what it's all about, to me. A softened tone at most times, in recent days."

—Written by Damon Freed for the occasion of the exhibition.

Damon Freed works and lives in Missouri. He received a M.F.A. from Hunter College, New York, and a B.F.A. from the School of Visual Arts, New York. He recently published "Twonism (Thoughts, Essays, and Poems)"-January 2018. He lives and works in Sedalia, Missouri. Watch a recent video on Damon Freed studio's practice on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uh\\_4nO2kE\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uh_4nO2kE_k)

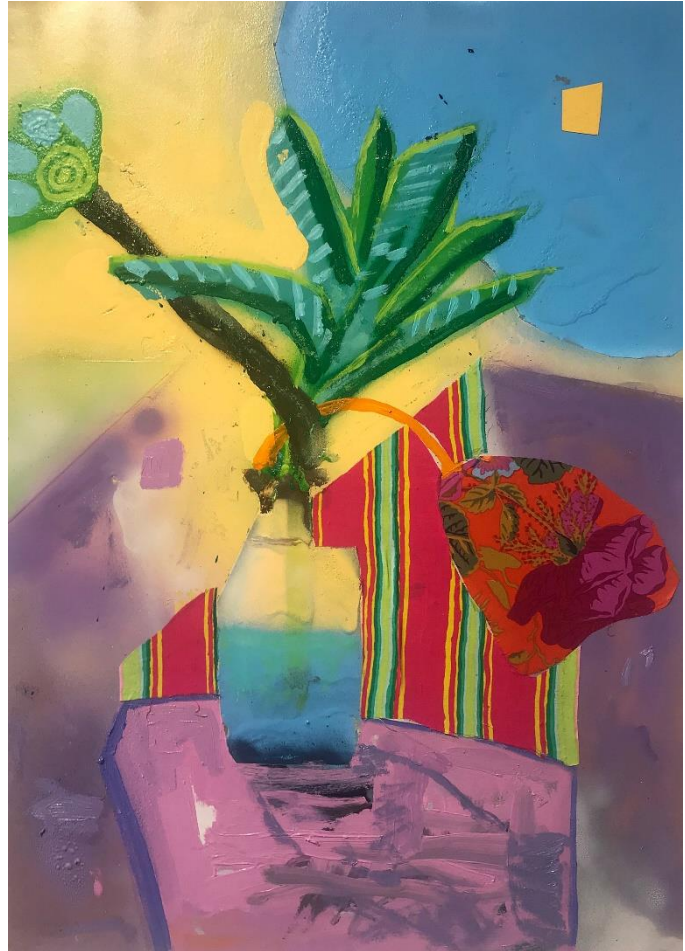
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Bruno David is pleased to present ***This Is Romance***, an exhibition of new works on paper by Phoenix-based painter **Ryan Eckert**. This will be Eckert's first exhibition with the gallery. In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish a catalogue of the works with an exhibition history and bibliography.

Ryan Eckert's paintings explore the relationship between self and his surroundings. Flowers are reoccurring motifs in his work that become figurative with a sense of longing and searching. His paintings display a range of physical beauty that Ryan compares to the impulsive beauty of life's temptations as well as its overwhelming joys. Each painting is on an individual journey that spans different stages of life, from birth to death and finally ascension. Ryan Eckert's work is a journal where every page is left open, describing a personal life of faith and spirit, which, though tainted by his own inner desires and ambitions, culminates in a warm, peaceful acceptance of salvation.

Imagination and intuition are at the forefront of Ryan's paintings. Imagery is not planned through preliminary sketches or concrete ideas; rather, each work begins simply with the foundation of a basic color palette, though that rarely carries through to the finished piece. Ryan Eckert's use of vibrant colors, patterns, and electric brushwork leave a visual history within the piece. The paintings evolve moment-by-moment and are ultimately a reactive process that leaves the result to chance. Each unexpected, accidental, and uncontrollable imperfection of the painting is fully exposed. The paint feels visceral. Although the process leaves tangible traces, the genesis of many nuances remains both mysterious and ambiguous.

Ryan Eckert was born in 1993 in Belleville, Illinois. He received his BFA from Eastern Illinois University in December of 2015, and then his MA from Eastern Illinois University in 2017. He is currently in his third and final year of the MFA program at Arizona State University, where he also teaches.





Bruno David is pleased to present a video work **Blow Away** (2008) by multi-disciplinary/conceptual artist **Andréa Stanislav**, in the New Media Room. This is the artist's second exhibition with the gallery.

Highlighting Stanislav's sustained work in mirrored sculpture, the film shows a dramatic explosion of mirrored obelisks on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. This film also provides valuable context for the artist's long-standing engagement with natural history. For a moment the obelisks line in harmony with the horizon line before they are obliterated into Hollywood fantasy, dialing into the present: the decline of the American Empire, complicit in its history of manifest destiny with the resulting disruption of nature.



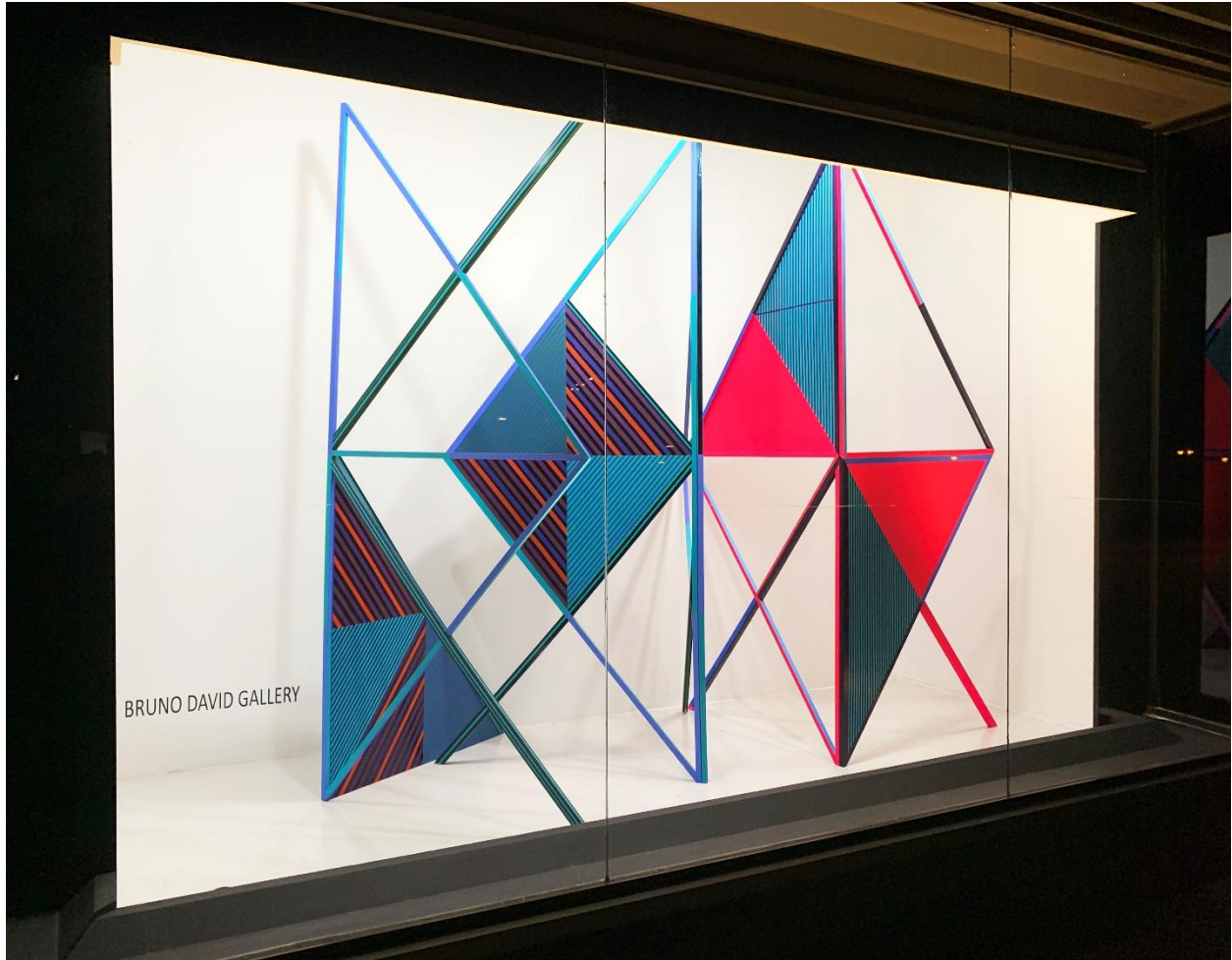
Andréa Stanislav (b. 1968, Chicago) is based in New York City, USA, and works in St. Petersburg RU and Bloomington, IN, USA. Her hybrid practice spans sculpture, video, multimedia installation, and public art. She received an MFA from Alfred University, New York in 1997; and a BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1990.

Recent solo exhibitions and projects include: The Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO; The Museum of the Defense and Siege of Leningrad, St. Petersburg, Russia. Other solo exhibitions and projects include: The 2014 Manifesta 10 European Biennial/Art-Centre Pushkinskaya-10 Parallel Public Program, St. Petersburg, Russia; Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN; Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN; 21c Contemporary Art Museum, Louisville, KY; Pelham Art Center, Pelham, NY; thisisnotashop, Dublin, Ireland; The Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE; The Museum of Non-Conformist Art, St. Petersburg, The 5th Moscow Biennial, Moscow, Russia; Socrates Sculpture Park, New York City, NY; Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, Wilmington, DE; Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Paul, MN; Plains Art Museum, Fargo, ND; The John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI; Kentucky Museum of Arts and Craft, Louisville, KY.

Ms. Stanislav has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants including: The 2015/2016 Freund Teaching Fellowship, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis and the St. Louis Art Museum; Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN; a 2010/2011 McKnight Artists Fellowship for Visual Arts, Minneapolis, MN; a Socrates Sculpture Park 2009 Jerome Emerging Artist Fellowship, New York City, NY. She is an Associate Professor of Sculpture and Head of the Sculpture Program in The School of Art, Architecture and Design at Indiana University, Bloomington.

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Bruno David is pleased to present a sculpture by **Kelley Johnson** on view live in the gallery's vitrine space Window on Forsyth at 7513 Forsyth Boulevard, St. Louis, MO.



Kelley Johnson was born (1973) in Houston, Texas and grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. He received an MFA from Indiana University and a BFA from Parsons School of Design. Growing up in the mid-west Kelley began working in construction at a young age, using materials commonly found in wood framed houses. He was influenced by the idea and process of framing, applying it to his structures and spaces. His work has been featured in publications such as *The Miami Herald*, *Artnet*, *Art Zealous*, *New American Paintings*, *Miami Rail*, *WERKS* and others.

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Leslie Laskey, Damon Freed, Andréa Stanislav, Ryan Eckert, Kelley Johnson, Bruno L. David are available for interviews. For images and additional information, please contact Cleo Kelly, at [cleo.kelly@brunodavidgallery.com](mailto:cleo.kelly@brunodavidgallery.com)

Bruno David Gallery

Public Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 11 - 6 pm, Saturday 11 - 5 pm and open by appointment

Closed Sundays and Mondays

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Website: [brunodavidgallery.com](http://brunodavidgallery.com)

Tel: 1.314.696.2377

#### ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY & BRUNO DAVID PROJECTS

Founded in 1983 in New York City, 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.

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And via the hashtags: [#BrunoDavidGallery](https://twitter.com/hashtag/BrunoDavidGallery) [#BrunoDavidProjects](https://twitter.com/hashtag/BrunoDavidProjects) [#LeslieLaskey](https://twitter.com/hashtag/LeslieLaskey) [#DamonFreed](https://twitter.com/hashtag/DamonFreed) [#RyanEckert](https://twitter.com/hashtag/RyanEckert) [#AndreaStanislav](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AndreaStanislav) [#KelleyJohnson](https://twitter.com/hashtag/KelleyJohnson) [#GoSeeArt](https://twitter.com/hashtag/GoSeeArt) [#DowntownClaytonMO](https://twitter.com/hashtag/DowntownClaytonMO) [#ArtExhibition](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ArtExhibition) [#OpeningSoon](https://twitter.com/hashtag/OpeningSoon) [#artbook](https://twitter.com/hashtag/artbook)

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Images: Leslie Laskey, Kelley Johnson, Damon Freed, Ryan Eckert, Andrea Stanislav

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#### TWO LOCATIONS

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