NEW EXHIBITIONS FEBRUARY / MARCH 2021

BUZZ SPECTOR  
*Paper made and unmade*

CHARLES SCHWALL  
*Sea Lover*

CHRIS KAHLER  
*Proximity*

Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective  
*WADE* (Media Room)

LESLIE LASKEY  
*Snow Cluster* (Window on Forsyth)

BLANCHE / BLANC  
Group exhibition (Project Room)

Exhibition Dates: January 26 – March 13, 2021

Due to the pandemic, the Opening Reception will be Saturday, January 30th, from 2 to 8 pm. To maintain safety standards and social distancing, masks will be required, and a reduced number of attendees will be allowed in the gallery at one time. More information on our upcoming exhibitions can be found online at: https://www.artsy.net/bruno-david-gallery/shows

(SAINT LOUIS, MO — January 23, 2021) — Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present a new exhibit by New York-based artist Buzz Spector, new paintings by Kansas City-based artist Charles Schwall, new paintings by Illinois-based artist Chris Kahler, a video by St. Louis–based artists from the Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective, a sculpture installation by artist Leslie Laskey in the gallery’s vitrine space, WINDOW ON FORSYTH; and a group exhibition BLANCHE/BLANC.
Bruno David is pleased to present Paper made and unmade, an exhibition of works on paper by Buzz Spector. This exhibit will be his fifth solo exhibition with the gallery. His long history of working with paper is the subject of Buzz Spector: Alterations, curated by Gretchen L. Wagner, and Elizabeth Wyckoff, at the Saint Louis Art Museum (Nov 20, 2020-May 31, 2021). A virtual talk "On Edge: what constitutes drawing in the art of Buzz Spector" at SLAM is scheduled at noon on Thursday, February 18, 2021. In conjunction with Spector’s exhibition, Bruno David Gallery will publish a catalogue of the artist’s work with an in-depth exhibition history and bibliography.

This new exhibit at Bruno David Gallery, brings together recent works of handmade paper Spector produced at three studios over the past three years: Megan Singleton in St. Louis, Helen Frederick in Silver Springs, MD, and Joan Hall in Jamestown RI. These works have not previously been exhibited.

Buzz Spector is an artist and critical writer whose artwork has been shown in such museums as the Art Institute of Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, Saint Louis Art Museum, the Luigi Pecci Centre, Prato, Italy, and the Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, PA. He has published a number of artists’ books and editions since the mid-1970s, including Buzzwords, selected interviews with Spector and new page art, issued by Sara Ranchouse Publishing, Chicago, in 2012. Other Spector publications include White Insistence, a limited edition collaboration with poet Michael Burkhart, self-published by the artist in 2009, and Time Square, a 2007 limited edition letterpress book hand altered by the artist, published by Pyracantha Press at Arizona State University.
Spector was a co-founder of WhiteWalls, a magazine of writings by artists, in Chicago in 1978, and served as the publication’s editor until 1987. Since then, he has written extensively on topics in contemporary art and culture, and has contributed reviews and essays to a number of publications, including American Craft, Artforum, Art Issues, Art on Paper, Exposure, and New Art Examiner. Spector is the author of numerous exhibition catalogue essays including, most recently, “Body of Drawing,” a reflection on drawing in the art of Monika Weiss, for the catalog to Weiss’s upcoming 2021 exhibit, Nirbhaya, at the Center of Polish Sculpture, Orońsko, Poland. Other recent essays include “Dan Ramirez: Music of Spheres,” published in the artist’s 2017 retrospective exhibit at the Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, WI, and Luis Camnitzer: Forewords and Last Words (Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University in St. Louis, 2011).

Spector received his M.F.A. from the University of Chicago in 1978, combining studies in art and philosophy, and studied design and art at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he received his B.A. in 1972. He received the Distinguished Teaching of Art Award from the College Art Association in 2013. Other recognition includes a 2005 New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA Fellowship), a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Fellowship in 1991, and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship Awards in 1982, 1985, and 1991. He is emeritus professor of art in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis.
Bruno David is pleased to present *Sea Lover*, an exhibition by Kansas City-based artist **Charles Schwall**. This will make his fourth solo exhibition with the gallery. In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery will publish a catalogue of the artist’s work with an in-depth exhibition history and bibliography.

Charles Schwall’s recent body of work, *Sea Lover*, is an exploration of two material languages, paint, and textiles; the exhibition is comprised of large canvas paintings and sewn fabric appliqué pieces. By placing these two material languages (two material bodies of knowledge) in conversation with one another, the work investigates concepts of surface, gendered space, fluidity, and overall softness. The aesthetic trajectory in the work is one of openness, growth, the expansion of organic systems, and morphology.

The conversation between paint and textiles occurs in various ways, such as painted forms that depict cloth, pattern, and textiles; use and reference of the vocabulary of sewing, such as folding and creasing, seaming, tucks, and pleats; and a semi-transparent use color, similar to a veil of fabric, in that it simultaneously hides and reveals. Many of the works also explore fabric’s innate water-like quality, such as the way cloth moves, ruffles, and twists in space.

The title of the *Sea Lover* exhibition is inspired by concepts from French philosopher Luce Irigaray, who explores the complex, and sometimes controversial, relationship that exists between the feminine and the fluid. In this sense, the *Sea Lover* exhibition interrogates and critiques modernist structures through the point of view of water. In the paintings, organic forms break open, spill forward, and emerge from either the center or the outside edge of the picture plane. Shapes and patterns break free and/or split apart; fold inward and/or wrap around; and open in ways that evoke the growth or birth process. There is interaction of various parts, yet emptiness remains central to the picture plane of each canvas.
The work seeks to create places of openness, of a relation to the other; a generative place where birth and rebirth can continuously prevail. Through these visual actions, the works embody a womb-space, a gendered space that reveals possibilities of multiple states of transition.

Charles Schwall lives in Kansas City where he maintains his studio. His paintings have been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally, including New York, St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, and Asuncion, Paraguay. As an early childhood educator, Schwall has extensively 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 is also the pedagogical coordinator for The St. Michael School of Clayton. 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. During the COVID-19 crisis, Schwall has also sewn masks as a volunteer for KC Helps and The Sewing Labs in Kansas City.

*(The exhibition is dedicated to Shirley Edith Stewart Schwall)*

Marking his eleventh solo exhibition with the gallery, Chris Kahler presents a selection of new paintings titled *PROXIMITY*. This new series of abstractions further expands upon the dynamic interplay between organic linear networks and hard-edge geometry that has come to characterize the artist’s unique work. In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery will publish a catalogue of the artist’s recent work with an in-depth exhibition history and bibliography.

David B. Olsen writes about Kahler’s new works: “When you see them now, them, the elements of Chris Kahler’s new paintings seem especially close. If we’ve become acutely aware of distance in daily life, these paintings depict the ebullient opposite of that. Forms both amorphous and geometrical alternately shift, batch, and huddle upon the surface; lines touch, intersect, and overlap, at once running up against and counter to each other. Kahler’s new visual vocabulary is productively, gorgeously claustrophobic in the same way that a map, when viewed from a reasonable distance, suggests that everything is actually pretty close, an entire world within reach. These works anticipate the figuration of our fraught times while also reminding us of the prime mover of painting as such—the containment of that which is viscous, three-dimensional, and fluid.”

Chris Kahler is the Chair of the Department of Art + Design, Associate Director of the School of the Arts and Professor of Painting at Eastern Illinois University. He received his B.F.A. at Ohio Wesleyan University and M.F.A. from Northwestern University, Chicago, IL. Kahler has been the subject of numerous one-person exhibitions at venues including the Richard Ross Art Museum, Delaware, OH (2014); Anita Wooten Gallery, Valencia College, Orlando, FL (2011); John P. Weatherhead Gallery, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, IN (2009); Museum of Surgical Science, Chicago, IL (2002).

(Image: Chris Kahler. *Morphotype 13*, 2020.)
Bruno David is pleased to present *WADE*, a video work by Saint Louis–based organization Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective. This makes the third exhibition by Saint Louis Story Stitchers’ artists with the gallery.

Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective creates original works of art through a collaborative process. Through non-violent collective action, artists work with 16-24-year-old urban youth to create systemic social change. Story Stitchers collect local stories, reframe, and retell them through art, writing and performance to promote understanding, civic pride, intergenerational relationships, and literacy. The video *WADE* in the Media Room comments on the history, endurance, and fellowship of St. Louis’s African American citizens.

The purpose for all Story Stitchers programs is to promote a better educated, more peaceful and caring region through storytelling. A core creative group of professional artists and African American youth generate original work through a unique form of “urban storytelling” that includes hip hop, spoken word, photography and videography and disseminate new works through public presentations and performances. The Collective’s body of work focuses on gun violence prevention and topics related to public health issues including education on safe practices during the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, Saint Louis Story Stitchers, a charitable organization, has been recognized nationally by Starbucks Foundation, Lush Corporation’s The Charity Pot, and twice by the Lewis Prize for Music through the Covid-19 Response Fund and as one of eight finalists nation-wide in the Accelerator Grant competition.
Story Stitchers’ programs are driven by the interests and concerns of low-income, black youth and as a result have focused on gun violence since 2014. Gun violence is a pressing public health crisis that consumes the attention of the engaged youth. Youth can work through their pain and loss and be a force multiplier, impacting families, schools and neighborhoods.

Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective piece WADE is a work from the multi-year project entitled, The WHY of MY City. The WHY of MY City captures and documents black history through written word and art and gives audiences insight into neighbors’ lives. The WHY of MY City and WADE were presented in 2019 with support from Mid-America Arts Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts, Missouri Humanities Council, a state agency, National Endowment for the Humanities, Missouri Foundation for Health, and Kranzberg Arts Foundation. Story Stitchers will publish an album and podcast series, StitchCast Studio Special Edition: The WHY of MY City in the spring of 2021.

Video in the New Media Room:
Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective: WADE
(5:48 minutes, one-channel color video with sound)

Music by Ntegrity and KP Dennis, with Stitchers Youth Council Emeara, Branden, AnnaLise, Shawn, Cali, Rachel and She’Kinah
Engineering and Mixing by Ntegrity, Mastering by Preston Jones, Sawhorse Studio
Videography by Troy Anthony, Editing by Susan Colangelo

Bruno David is pleased to present a sculpture installation *Snow Cluster* by Leslie Laskey in the gallery’s vitrine space, WINDOW ON FORSYTH (Downtown Clayton, viewable 24/7)

His upcoming *100 years-old birthday’s* solo exhibition at Bruno David Gallery opens March 27, 2021.
Bruno David is pleased to present a group exhibition *BLANCHE / BLANC* in the gallery's Project Room. The artists included are Lisa Blatt, Judy Child, Jill Downen, Bunny Burson, Arny Nadler.
Buzz Spector, Charles Schwall, Susan Colangelo, Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective’s youths, Chris Kahler, Leslie Laskey and Bruno L. David are available for interviews. For images and additional information, please contact Cleo Kelly, at cleo.kelly@brunodavidgallery.com

Bruno David Gallery
Public Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday 11 - 5 pm, and by appointment
Closed Sundays and Mondays
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ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY & BRUNO DAVID PROJECTS
Founded in 1984 in New York City, Bruno David Gallery 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 #BuzzSpector #CharlesSchwall #SaintLouisStoryStitchersArtistsCollective #ChrisKahler #LeslieLaskey #GoSeeArt #DowntownClaytonMO #ArtExhibition #OpeningSoon #artbook #ContemporaryArt
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