

PRESS RELEASE

April 28, 2014

BRUNO DAVID GALLERY
3721 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
SAINT LOUIS MO 63108
1-314-531-3030
Hours: Wed-Sat 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
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MICHAEL JANTZEN

M-velope

June 27 – August 23, 2014

Opening Reception: Friday, June 27th
from 5:00 to 9:00 pm

JILL DOWNEN

Cornerstone (New Media Room)



Bruno David is delighted to present a special exhibition *M-velope* by Michael Jantzen. The opening reception will be Friday, June 27, 2014 from 5 to 9 pm. Michael Jantzen is an internationally known artist whose work has been featured in hundreds of articles, books, magazines, and newspapers from around the world. His work attempts to merge art, architecture, technology, and sustainable design. He has not been educated as an architect but rather as an artist, using architecture as an art form. By incorporating his surroundings, he assimilates his pieces simultaneously to fit within the environment and likewise the environment to accommodate his pieces. Much of his work, in one way or another, explores new ways of thinking about the built environment. The gallery will be showing his latest sculpture from his “M-velope” Series. The sculpture is 12 feet high by 12 feet wide and 20 feet long, it will be at the center of the main gallery space. For further information, please contact the gallery at info@brunodavidgallery.com or at 1.314.531.3030.



Michael Jantzen has always approached his art and design as an inventor, rather than a stylist. By creating architectural art, he is reinventing the built environment so that it can continually be altered to meet the changing needs and desires of its occupants. At times, he attempts to invent systems and components that can be assembled and reassembled in various ways, thus creating form from symbolic references, which relate directly to the specific site and/or function of the project. As a result, another aesthetic component evolves that is unexpected yet equally relevant.

In his recent works, he has developed an architectural art structure that holds both functionality and aesthetic beauty. His latest sculpture titled *M-velope* is one in a series of functional art structures designed to be special places in which to escape from the normal reality of a predictable conventional space. Those who encounter the *M-velope* will be inspired to think more creatively about their own passions in life. The *M-velope* series aesthetics are based on the world famous M-house, also designed by Michael Jantzen,

which was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The finale shape of the *M-velopes* are generated from much simpler forms, which are further subdivided into various segments, and hinged in and out to create a “final” form. Reinventing the world’s external spaces and sharing this vision with others to create a better place for all humanity is one of Michael’s goals for his works.

His work has been featured in a multitude of books, magazines and newspapers. Some of the magazines include *Wallpaper*, *Architecture Magazine*, *Architectural Digest*, *The AIA Journal*, *House & Garden*, *Popular Science*, *Domus*, *Elle Décor*, *Esquire*, *Dwell*, *Metropolis*, *Art Forum*, and *Newsweek*. Newspapers include, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Daily News*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Der Spiegel*, *The Washington Star*, *The Kansas City Star*, *The Detroit Free Press*, *The Tampa Tribune*, and *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Some of the books include, “Architecture in the United States”, “Architecture Now”, “Architecture in the 20TH Century”, “The 21st Century House”, “Brave New Houses”, “Architecture Art, High Tech”, “The Solar Living Source Book”, and the “Atlas of Eco-Architecture”. His work has also been featured in TV documentaries. It has been exhibited at the National Building Museum, the Canadian Center for Architecture, the Harvard School of Design and Architecture, the Russian Institute of Architecture, and at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Michael has been cited as one of the pioneers of the sustainable design movement from the 1970s, and has taught sustainable design at Washington University in St. Louis, and at the Art Center College of Art and Design in Pasadena California. Michael has been a consultant on many projects for various organizations such as, the Herman Miller Company, Advanced Structures Inc., Bio Sphere 2, e-solar, the Lawrence Hall of Science, the Buckminster Fuller Institute, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Washington University in St. Louis, Neiman Marcus, and NASA.

Michael Jantzen was born in 1948, he lives, and works in Los Angeles and St. Louis, Missouri. He received his B.S. Degree (Fine Arts) from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville (1971), and his M.F.A. Degree (Fine Arts, Multi Media) from Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri (1973).



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In the New Media Room, the gallery presents a video work “Cornerstone” by **Jill Downen**.

Downen, known for her white on white wall installations of abstracted bodily forms emerging from architecture, continues to draw on the idea that the human body shares an interdependent relationship to buildings. The three-minute video, created in 2008, zooms in on a stack of real bricks on the artist’s own body. The simple act of breathing, under the weight of building materials, captures a moment of time that is humorous, visceral, and vulnerable. The subtle and rhythmic sensibility Downen brings to video poses metaphoric possibilities about gravity, support and the protection of human fragility within the frame of architecture. While Downen’s art is rooted in site-responsive installation, “Cornerstone” is a video project characteristic of her interdisciplinary approach to uncover new aspects of established boundaries. Downen’s art is a focused investigation of the symbiotic relationship between the human body and architecture expressed in temporal installations, drawings, and models. Her art envisions a place of interdependent relation between the human body and architecture, where the exchanging forces and tensions of construction, deterioration, and restoration emerge as thematic possibilities.

Jill Downen is an assistant professor of sculpture at the Kansas City Art Institute. She received the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship (2010), the MacDowell Colony National Endowment for the Arts residency, and Cité International des Arts Residency in Paris. Downen was selected for the 2004 Great Rivers Biennial, a grant and exhibition sponsored by Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and the Gateway Foundation. Downen has been invited to lecture about her work extensively, including the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. and the Luce Irigaray Circle Philosophy Conference in New York. Her art has been reviewed in publications including *Art in America*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *Art Papers*, *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *The New York Times* and *Bad at Sports*. She holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA as a Danforth Scholar from Washington University in St. Louis. She lives and works in Kansas City.



ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Specializing in contemporary art, Bruno David Gallery has been a leading art gallery since its establishment in St. Louis in 2005. Bruno David represents some of the most innovative artists practicing in St. Louis, along with artists of international reputation. Located in a renovated industrial building in Midtown St. Louis, Grand Center arts district, the Gallery is directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM), and is in close proximity to the Sheldon Art Galleries, The Fox Theatre, and Powell Symphony Hall. 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*.

Please join the conversation with Bruno David Gallery on Twitter ([@bdavidgallery](https://twitter.com/bdavidgallery)), Facebook (facebook.com/bruno.david.gallery), Google+ (plus.google.com/112677784125453318003) See our videos/interviews on VIMEO (vimeo.com/brunodavidgallery) and on YouTube (youtube.com/user/brunodavidgallery). Read our news on our blog GoodArtNews (goodartnews.com/). View our Ebook publications (issuu.com/brunodavidgallery). Purchase our publications (lulu.com/spotlight/brunodavidgallerypublications).

The gallery was first established by Bruno David in New York City (1983) and later in Saint Louis (2005)

Images: **Michael Jantzen:** *M-velope (M-house series)*, 2014. Wood, paint and metal, 12 H x 12 W x 20 L feet. **Jill Downen:** *Cornerstone*, 2008 (still). 3 min. loop, edition of 5. All images are subject to copyright. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.