

## PRESS RELEASE

March 21, 2015

BRUNO DAVID GALLERY  
3721 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD  
ST. LOUIS MO 63108 USA  
1.314.531.3030  
Hours: Wednesday through Saturday  
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
info@brunodavidgallery.com

### **CHRIS KAHLER**

*On Paper*

### **Max Starkloff: A Retrospective**

Project Room

### **Max Starkloff: A Life**

Media Arts Room

March 27 – April 25, 2015

Opening Reception:

Friday, March 27, 2015 from 6 to 9 pm

Gallery Talk + Reading

Saturday, April 25 at 5:30 pm



Bruno David Gallery is pleased to announce the opening reception of *Chris Kahler: On Paper* and a retrospective exhibition of Max Starkloff 1960s paintings on Friday, March 27th from 6 to 9 pm at its Grand Center gallery.

Bruno David and Keri Robertson are pleased to present a new exhibition of recent works on paper by Chris Kahler. Marking the artist's seventh solo exhibition with the gallery, "On Paper" offers a unique body of work emerging from a three-year exploration of drawing, systematic drafting, and watercolor techniques. Kahler's exploration of negative space, light, and intersecting planes has resulted in arresting juxtapositions of biomorphic and ephemeral forms. As with "Disequencing", Kahler's 2013 exhibition of paintings at Bruno David Gallery, these drawings explore the "boundaries between physical and psychological time, between phenomena and the variable conceptual filters for understanding them." In conjunction with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish a catalogue on the artist's work with an exhibition history and bibliography.

Chris Kahler is a Professor of Painting and Drawing 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).

In the Project Room, we are pleased to introduce a retrospective exhibition of paintings by **Max Starkloff**. In conjunction with the exhibition *Max Starkloff: A Retrospective*; Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish a catalog on the artist's work with an exhibition history and bibliography and essays by Robert Duffy and Charles E. Claggett.

In 1959, at the age of 21, Max Starkloff was in a car accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down. His doctors doubted he would live longer than a few days and, if he survived, his quality of life would be diminished. Max's mother, divorced and supporting three children, tried for nearly four years to care for Max at home before reluctantly placing him in a nursing home managed by Franciscan Monks in Eureka, Missouri. Max, aged 25, was sent to a facility for men, whose average age was 80.

In the nursing home, Max met Brother Matthew, a 40-year-old Franciscan artist. He offered to teach Max how to paint holding the brush clenched between his teeth. Brother Matthew positioned Max close to the canvas, squeezed tubes of colors onto the palette, and began teaching Max how to draw simple shapes. By the winter of 1964, only four months after meeting Brother Matthew, Max began painting six hours a day. His work was exhibited at Kenrick Seminary and Saint Louis University. Max's last exhibit was at Maryville College in December 1969 at which he presented 30 paintings.



In 1969, his sense of perception was shifting. Watching television as the Civil Rights Movement unfolded, Max began to wonder whether his rights and others with disabilities were being addressed. He gave up painting and became a leader in the movement for independent living and disability rights.

He co-founded the Paraquad organization with his wife Colleen in 1970, and established it as one of the first 10 federally funded Independent Living Centers in the nation. Additionally, in 1983, he co-founded the National Council on Independent Living (with Marca Bristo, Judy Heumann, Lex Frieden and Charlie Carr). Max would go on to establish the Starkloff Disability Institute in 2003.

Max Starkloff's legacy of dedication to the ongoing fight for Civil Rights has changed the face of our nation, helping America to redefine the meaning of independence for the 21st century. Starkloff lobbied for legislation for curb cuts and disabled parking, as well as for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. He won a President's Distinguished Service Award in 1991, and was awarded a star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame. Max Starkloff was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1937. He passed away in December 2010.

The exhibition *Max Starkloff: A Retrospective* will be open to the public from March 27 to June 27, 2015

The gallery is located between N. Grand and N. Spring Avenues and is wheelchair accessible. Accessible street crosswalk is at the corner of N. Spring Avenue and Washington Boulevard.

In the Media Arts Room, the gallery presents a short documentary (9:20 min) "Max Starkloff: A Life" by Gary Womack, on the life of Max Starkloff and his legacy as a Civil Rights leader and as an artist.



For visuals and further information, please contact the gallery at [info@brunodavidgallery.com](mailto:info@brunodavidgallery.com) or at 1.314.531.3030. Available for interviews: Bruno L. David and Keri Robertson; Chris Kahler, Artist.

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#### ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Specializing in contemporary art, Bruno David Gallery and Bruno David Projects have been a leading art gallery since their establishment in St. Louis in 2005 (Grand Center) and 2014 (The Grove). Bruno David represents some of the most innovative artists practicing in St. Louis, along with artists of international reputation. Bruno David Gallery is 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). 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 on Twitter with Bruno David Gallery ( @bdauidgallery ) and Bruno David Projects ( @bdauidprojects ), Facebook ([facebook.com/bruno.david.gallery](https://facebook.com/bruno.david.gallery)), Google+ ([plus.google.com/112677784125453318003](https://plus.google.com/112677784125453318003)) See our videos/interviews on VIMEO ([vimeo.com/brunodavidgallery](https://vimeo.com/brunodavidgallery)) and on YouTube ([youtube.com/user/brunodavidgallery](https://youtube.com/user/brunodavidgallery)). Read our news on our blog GoodArtNews ([goodartnews.com/](https://goodartnews.com/)). View our Ebook publications ([issuu.com/brunodavidgallery](https://issuu.com/brunodavidgallery)). Purchase our publications ([lulu.com/spotlight/brunodavidgallerypublications](https://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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Images: **Chris Kahler**: *Biolumen 1A*, 2015. Acrylic and mixed media on Mylar, 30 x 22 inches. **Max Starkloff**: *The Assassination*, 1968. Oil on panel, 34-7/8 x 21 inches. © 2015 Bruno David Gallery, Chris Kahler and the Max Starkloff Estate. All International Rights Reserved. Works of individual artists remain the intellectual property and are copyrighted by their respective authors. No unauthorized reproduction, all rights reserved. Gallery approval must be granted prior to reproduction.

#### TWO LOCATIONS

##### BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

3721 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD SAINT LOUIS MO 63108 314.531.3030  
INFO@BRUNODAVIDGALLERY.COM WWW.BRUNODAVIDGALLERY.COM

##### BRUNO DAVID PROJECTS

1245 S. VANDEVENTER AVENUE SAINT LOUIS MO 63110 314.449.6438  
INFO@BRUNODAVIDPROJECTS.COM WWW.BRUNODAVIDPROJECTS.COM