

NEWS RELEASE

BRUNO DAVID GALLERY NEW EXHIBITIONS,
OPENING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020

JAMES AUSTIN MURRAY

Fusing Time

TOM REED

this is the before

RICHARD HULL

Painting and Drawing

PATRICIA OLYNYK

The Mutable Archive

FRANK SCHWAIGER

SYZYGY-when heavenly bodies align

CHRISTINA SHMIGEL

*Window on Forsyth
In Our Town*

Opening Reception:

Saturday, February 29. 6-8 pm

February 29 – June 13, 2020

Clayton Location:

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

(SAINT LOUIS, MO — February 12, 2020) — Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present new works by the following collective of artists: paintings by New York-based artist **James Austin Murray**, works by Chicago-based artist **Richard Hull**; works by St. Louis-based artist **Tom Reed**; sculptures by St. Louis-based artist **Frank Schwaiger**; a video work by New York/St. Louis-based artist **Patricia Olynyk**, and an installation by St. Louis-based **Christina Shmigel** in the gallery's vitrine space, WINDOW ON FORSYTH.

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Bruno David is pleased to present ***Fusing Time***, an exhibition by New York-based artist **James Austin Murray**. This will be Murray's second 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.

"These are both a continuation of the works I've focused on over the last several years, and a fusion of work I had begun in my late 20's. Reaching back in time to older work is something I felt would happen when I had begun this work so many years ago. Every so often, the artwork revisits an old path, stemming from a previous impulse. This bridging of old and new characteristics in my art and history makes connections that are both satisfying and revelatory. These paintings are about paint, objecthood, and, although these are not sculpture, their relief aspects take that direction. Where this work ends is still a mystery to me, and finding myself in this uncertain territory is most invigorating."



As a NYC firefighter during the September 11th attack in New York City, Murray paints on how his life was informed following the atrocity of that day. His current work is both about the paint and the light reflected on and within it. Murray states, "Sometimes the dark is where you find the best surprises."

James Austin Murray lives and works in New York City. Murray was a firefighter for over a decade, working in the South Bronx, Harlem, the West Village, and on the Lower East Side. He taught at Parsons School of Design, New York.

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Bruno David is pleased to present *Painting and Drawing*, an exhibition by Chicago-based artist **Richard Hull**. This will be Hull's second 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.

Richard Hull's paintings fill their canvases with large swathes of color; blocks of opaque hues are overlaid with sweeping brushstrokes clustered together that function like non-transient ripples on the water, as rings within a tree, or of grooves on a record player as the latter description evokes the same feelings of growth that Hull's painterly gestures achieve. The comparison describes the texture of thick paint upon the canvas some of the patterns, and the liveliness of the purposeful irregularities within Hull's stroke.

Although Hull's paintings are not traditional portraits, each artwork has a distinct feeling of character. Hull applies a layer of melted beeswax to his canvas before painting, making the rich colors found in his work possible. Then, he paints shapes of hot and cold colors against each other, creating a skewed sense of perspective. This confusion of space, in addition to Hull's use of repeating lines and simplified shapes, keeps the viewer from identifying a clear subject. The general weight of the masses of shapes often resembles a portrait silhouette, suggesting a living presence.



Born in Oklahoma City, Hull received his B.F.A. from the Kansas City Art Institute, and his M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Hull was represented by Phyllis Kind Gallery in 1979 (Chicago and New York City) and joined the company of well-known Imagists such as Roger Brown, Jim Nutt, Gladys Nilsson, and Ed Paschke. He has exhibited his work nationally and internationally. His paintings may be found in many private and public collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Milwaukee Art Museum; the Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City; and the San Antonio Museum of Art, Texas.

Bruno David is pleased to present *this is the before*, an exhibition by St. Louis-based artist **Tom Reed**. This will be Reed's second 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.



The river is continually referred to in Reed's work. Once a symbol of time and change in his paintings, it now has become a collaborative partner. Reed spends days and hours on the river fly fishing. Mementos of this time on the river, beaver chewed sticks, logs, arrowheads, and junk, slowly began making their way into the studio and eventually into the work. Over time they formed a bridge between the river and the creative output in the studio. In this current exhibition, *this is the before*, Reed combines painted landscapes with small, wooden sculptures in the form of trail markers dotting a hiking trail. The largest, an arrow, reads simply Before. The word is both a warning and an invitation to view any ordinary present-day moment through the eyes of a time-traveler from the future. What would you change if you could go back in time, it asks? What if you are there right now?

Tom Reed is an artist, master printer at Island Press, and senior lecturer in the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis. Reed received his M.F.A. from the University of Iowa and has had several gallery and museum exhibitions, including at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. He lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri.

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Bruno David is pleased to present ***The Mutable Archive***, a video work by New York/St. Louis-based artist **Patricia Olynyk**. This will be Olynyk's third exhibition with the gallery. *The Mutable Archive* is a multi-layered performance video project that interrogates the lives of those housed in a special archive split between two continents. Who speaks for those who are lost, particularly in the absence of verifiable archival material?

During two residencies: one as a Francis C. Wood Fellow at the College of Physicians and Mütter Museum in Philadelphia and one in Europe's oldest asylum, the Narrenturm in Vienna, Austria, Olynyk photographed an inventory of human specimens collected by a 19th-century Viennese anatomist, Dr. Josef Hyrtl. Nine commissioned writers, including Shimon Attie, Buzz Spector, Chelsea Knight, and Ellen K. Levy have each produced a speculative biography about a chosen subject in Hyrtl's collection. Each performed script, a 4K cinematic video, interrogates the mechanics of storytelling and the roles of assumption and subjectivity in science. Each vignette is edited into a richly textured video performance, which is projected sequentially.



The *Mutable Archive* prioritizes the relationship between each author/performer and their chosen subject while exposing how various narrative strategies can reveal the social and political challenges of the past and the present. Rather than follow conventional archival theory, commissioned writers – artists, musicians, historians, an opera singer, and a spiritual medium – bridge historically rich material and contemporary issues relating to identity politics, migration, racial profiling and gender bias, ultimately revealing the fictitious foundations of the human taxonomy itself.

Olynyk received her MFA degree with Distinction from the California College of the Arts and spent four years as a Monbusho Scholar and a Tokyu Foundation Research Scholar in Japan. She is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions, including a Helmut S. Stern Fellowship at the Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan and a Francis C. Wood Fellowship at the College of Physicians, Philadelphia. She has held residencies at UCLA's Design Media Arts Department; the Banff Center for the Arts in Canada; Villa Montalvo, California; and the Narrenturm institute and museum in Vienna. Her work has been featured at Palazzo Michiel in Venice, the Los Angeles International Biennial, The Brooklyn Museum, the Saitama Modern Art Museum in Japan, and Museo del Corso in Rome. Her solo exhibitions include: *Sensing Terrains* at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., *Dark Skies* at the Art I Sci Center Gallery at UCLA, and *Transfigurations* at Galeria Grafica Tokio, Tokyo, Japan. Other recent exhibitions include: *Umwelt: Christine Davis, Patricia Olynyk and Meredith Tromble* at the BioBAT Art Space, Brooklyn; *Skeptical Inquirers* at the Sidney Mishkin Gallery, Baruch College, New York; *Sleuthing the Mind* at the Pratt Manhattan Gallery, and *Ephemeral: Unraveling History* at the Ruth S. Harley Gallery, Adelphi University, New York.

Olynyk is Chair of the Graduate School of Art at Washington University in St. Louis. She co-directs the Leonardo/ISAST *NY LASER* program in New York, which promotes cross-disciplinary exchange between artists, scientists, and scholars. Her writing is featured in publications that include *Public Journal*, the *Routledge Companion to Biology in Art and Architecture*, *Technoetic Arts*, and *Leonardo Journal*.

Bruno David is pleased to present ***SYZYGY-when heavenly bodies align***, an exhibition by St. Louis-based artist **Frank Schwaiger**. This will be Schwaiger's fourth 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.

Schwaiger's new sculptures took years to complete. All of them reflect Frank's passion for stonework: "I am a stone carver," he says. "It's what I was put here to do." He sees his work in the ancient tradition of sculpture created not as art but as "transmission objects" embodying the human desire to "reach and control the beyond, the impossible-to-understand". In his artist's past statement, Frank writes, "We make things with our hands - that unique ability makes us human, and even more amazingly, earns us an awareness of our spirit. All art is riven with this quest for who we are. The root of my iconography can be traced back, like Paul Klee's, to 17th century Bavarian folk art and the making of things with the hand. That is who I am."



Frank 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 Master from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, where he worked with Buckminster Fuller.

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A landscape of rural water towers fills Bruno David Gallery's Window on Forsyth. ***In Our Town*** is sculptor **Christina Shmigel's** first show with the gallery since she repatriated to the US in 2017. After 14 years of living in Shanghai, China, Shmigel marks her return to St Louis with a new series of sculptures based on an iconic image of the American landscape, the water tower. Composed of interlocking planes of slotted sheet steel, the sculptures in the Window on Forsyth are the latest incarnation of a form that Shmigel has addressed numerous times over the course of her 30-year career.

Whether adorning a building in NYC or marking a town along an interstate highway, the water tower has a strong hold on the collective imagination of Americans. As it stands alone in the distance, the tower speaks to a traveler's sense of loneliness, to a sense of the stranger-passing-through. The water tower also announces the existence of a community and marks a place of settlement. As an image, it immediately triggers memories. Dear, familiar, half-forgotten: there's always a story about the water tower "in our town..."



After completing a BFA (1980) in painting at RISD, Shmigel trained as a sculptor, earning an MFA (1987) in Sculpture from Brooklyn College & an MFA (1993) in Metals from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She was Associate Professor of Sculpture at Webster University (1995-2005) and continues to teach, frequently at the Penland School of Crafts in NC. Shmigel's exhibitions include installations for the St Louis Art Museum, Laumeier Sculpture Park, Duolun Museum of Contemporary Art in Shanghai, The Ukrainian Museum in NYC, the Ukrainian Institute for Modern Art in Chicago and the Penland School of Crafts. She is represented by Bruno David Gallery in St Louis.

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James Austin Murray, Richard Hull, Tom Reed, Christina Shmigel, Patricia Olynyk, Frank Schwaiger, and Bruno 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 - Friday 11 - 6 pm, Saturday 11 - 5 pm and open by appointment

Closed Sundays and Mondays

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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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