

**NEWS RELEASE**

**BRUNO DAVID GALLERY**  
7513 Forsyth Boulevard  
Saint Louis, MO 63105

**NEW EXHIBITIONS MARCH / APRIL 2021**

**LESLIE LASKEY**

*Then & Now*

**SARA GHAZI ASADOLLAHI**

*Gummies Tame Stones*

**SARA GHAZI ASADOLLAHI**

*Cast*

(Media Room)

**HEATHER BENNETT**

*Blueprint Kit for Lilly*

(Window on Forsyth)

Exhibition Dates: March 27 – May 29, 2021

Due to the pandemic, the Opening Reception will be Saturday, March 27th, from 3 to 8 pm (No appointment necessary.) 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. Free indoor parking. More information on our current and upcoming exhibitions can be found online at: <https://www.artsy.net/bruno-david-gallery/shows>

(SAINT LOUIS, MO — March 5, 2021) — Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present a new exhibit by One-Hundred years-young Saint Louis-based artist **Leslie Laskey**, a series of new paintings, and a video work by Iranian Atlanta-based artist **Sara Ghazi Asadollahi**; an installation by artist **Heather Bennett** in the gallery's vitrine space, WINDOW ON FORSYTH.

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Bruno David is pleased to present *Then & Now*, an exhibition by **Leslie Laskey**. This exhibit will be his 14th solo exhibition with the gallery and will include works done in 2020-21 along with works created many years ago. In conjunction with Laskey's exhibition, Bruno David Gallery will publish a catalogue of the artist's work with an in-depth exhibition history and bibliography.

Laskey, who is One Hundred this year, has the ability to create and inspire, as well as challenge and amuse become ever more apparent with each exhibition. In an interview with Bryan A. Hollerbach, Laskey said "I don't really like talking about the work – I think you have to, in a way, hear what you're seeing, and you have to see what you're hearing." Often described as passionate, demanding, insightful, magical, inspirational and, above all, creative, he is a



force to be reckoned with, as illustrated in the 2012 film documentary "Forty-Seven Views of Leslie Laskey" by West-Coast-based filmmakers, David Wild and Lulu Gargiulo. (Watch it on VIMEO ( <https://vimeo.com/436231080> ) - 46 minutes, color).

Seeing his last thirteen exhibitions at the gallery, one gets the idea that for Leslie, art, work, and life are one in the same: "I don't think my art is different from my life; they're intertwined, inseparable. The way I cook, the way I paint, the way I read, and the music I listen to are all one in the same." (from article "The Art of Life, a Life in Art" published in the St. Louis Beacon) Whether he is talking about baking peaches, sharing his ideas for design, or reciting poetry, his passion and energy for life are contagious.

Born in Michigan in 1921, Laskey served in a combat unit in Europe and was among the troops that landed on Omaha Beach, early on D-Day, 1944. He 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 and Manistee, Michigan and is a Professor Emeritus of Architecture at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis.

(Image: Leslie Laskey. *Untitled*, 2021. Oil on board, 14 x 21 inches.

(over, please)

Bruno David is pleased to present *Gummies Tame Stones*, an exhibition of new paintings by Iranian Atlanta-based artist **Sara Ghazi Asadollahi**. This will make her second 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.

"Alienation" is defined as "a withdrawing or separation of a person or a person's affections from an object or position of former attachment;" a detachment from the origin yet connected to it through invisible bonds, formally or conceptually. This body of work *Gummies Tame Stones* considers the concept of alienation and the dynamic between alienated objects and figures in empty spaces.

Empty and abandoned spaces play a significant role in her work, featured through the media of painting, video, and sculpture. Referencing an "original world,"

empty spaces provide a detachment from time and space and highlight the relationship between the objects within. The architectural forms in these paintings are painted from the sculpture pieces (made of cement and plexiglass) inspired by bunkers and abandoned places. Detached from their source, they represent fragments that simultaneously belong to the world of their origin and are torn from the real object of the derived milieu.

Alienation could happen in different stages of life due to some internal or external changes, a separation from self, family, society, or community. Whatever the reason, it creates a pause in the status quo and leaves a void in the psyche. The void which opens a space for the alienated objects to challenge, embrace and deal with the estrangement. The gap is created to be filled with the representation of fragments, vacillating between a passage to the future and a world of fetishes.

Sara Ghazi Asadollahi holds a B.A. and M.A. in Iran and an M.F.A. degree from the Sam Fox School of Visual Arts & Design, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate (Film and Media Studies) at the Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia.



(Image: Sara Ghazi Asadollahi. *Alien Mints #5*, 2020. Oil on canvas, 26 x 30 inches.

(over, please)

Bruno David is pleased to present an installation *Blueprint Kit for Lilly* by **Heather Bennett** in the gallery's vitrine space, WINDOW ON FORSYTH (Downtown Clayton, viewable 24/7)

Photographic images have traditionally depicted space, revealing people and objects, they are the stuff of illusion. They are also things. At the intersection of these identities is a kind of gooey vacillation as we look at and through a photographic image in contemporary culture. This work seems to depict exactly what the series title, *Photos of Gifts*, describes, however, objects are often wrapped with magazine images complicating illusionistic



space, as well as, obscuring object identities. Women acting as objects for magazine advertisements are subtly transformed here to the focused subjects of the images only to then be flattened, inextricable from the object portrait, as they are wrapped around that object and tied with a bow. The subject/object reversal of the female form gets a sea-sickening treatment. The small act of wrapping a gift becomes a potent metaphor, exploding within its supposedly quiet, often assumed to be feminine place.

In this window installation, a candied vacuousness is implied, even embraced. Glossy lips and curled pink ribbons float over a dusky pink carpet mimicking a cloying set for Teen Vogue. We don't expect to find the critical here playing precocious as it winks and sways and just barely, gazes back.

Heather Bennett earned a BA in political science and a BFA in printmaking at Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and received an MFA in painting at Hunter College, New York. Her work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions including Stephan Stoyanov Gallery, New York, NY; Eva Hober Gallery, Paris, France; Gallerie S.E., Bergen, Norway; Graffit Gallery, Varna, Bulgaria; FIAC Contemporary Art Fair, Paris, France; University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL; Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO; LOOP Contemporary Art Fair, Barcelona, Spain; Contemporary Arts Center, Syracuse, NY and the Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE, among others.

Bennett's work has been the subject of numerous reviews in varied publications, such as Artnet, Art Review Magazine, Art Press, ArtPapers, The New York Times, and Time Out New York. Her 2014 solo exhibition in New York City was reviewed by R.C. Baker of The Village Voice, NYC and her 2017 solo exhibition the Bruno David Gallery in St. Louis was reviewed by Eileen G'Sell in [Hyperallergic](#). Currently, Bennett is a full-time lecturer at the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri.

Image: *Blueprint Kit for Lilly*, from the series *Photos of Gifts* by Heather Bennett, 2016  
Digital Photograph on Platine Rag, 44 x 65 inches, Edition of 3

Bruno David is pleased to present *Cast*, a video work by Iranian Atlanta-based artist **Sara Ghazi Asadollahi**. This will make her third solo exhibition with the gallery.

"Cast" examines chance and accident. It indicates a rule in video games in which the world is not fully programmed, and the background is not an accessible part of the game, unless there is a connection to the next move/stage.



The set design in the video was created using a painting and a sculpture by Sara Ghazi Asadollahi. Both came from her last body of work exploring the concept of ruins and abandoned places in a dystopian science fiction mode. Following the video games rule above, abandoned places featured a similar function in relation to the world: while still a part of the world, they have lost their original function. Like a sleeping monster, they are hiding in the background of the world as if waiting to be provoked by an accident to return to a banal cycle of the world.

Sara Ghazi Asadollahi holds a B.A. and M.A. in Iran and an M.F.A. degree from the Sam Fox School of Visual Arts & Design, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate (Film and Media Studies) at the Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia.

(Image: Sara Ghazi Asadollahi. *Cast*, 2021 (still from video). 00:01:56, one-channel color video, sound. Edited by Morvavid Ghasemi.

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Leslie Laskey, Sara Ghazi Asadollahi, Heather Bennett and 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 - Saturday 11 - 5 pm, and by appointment

Closed Sundays and Mondays

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Website: <https://www.brunodavidgallery.com>

Website: <https://www.artsy.net/bruno-david-gallery>

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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](#) [#LeslieLaskey](#) [#SaraGhaziAsadollahi](#) [#HeatherBennett](#) [#GoSeeArt](#) [#DowntownClaytonMO](#) [#ArtExhibition](#) [#OpeningSoon](#) [#ContemporaryArt](#)

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