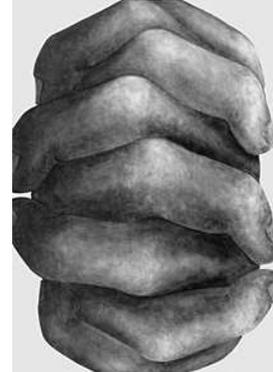


September 16, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

BRUNO DAVID GALLERY
3721 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
SAINT LOUIS MO 63108
T. 1.314.531.3030
GALLERY HOURS:
Wed – Sat 10:00 – 5:00pm



OCTOBER 3 – 25, 2008

Opening Reception: Friday, October 3, from 6 to 9 pm

Main Gallery | WILLIAM GRIFFIN: Recent Paintings

Project Room | PATRICIA OLYNYK: Probe

Front Room | MARGARET ADAMS: Recent Paintings

New Media Room | JESSICA ROGEN: Let Me Entertain You

Bruno David Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings by **William Griffin** in the main gallery.

William Griffin's most recent work blends the traditions of Old Masters with 21st century sensibility. He paints human figures as forms and shapes, touching and reacting in sensual gestures. By using the figure's power to express strong physical and emotional content, and by reducing the informational material, Griffin abstracts his images – much as a photographer or filmmaker crops and frames observed phenomena and concepts. The stylish, large-scale oil paintings he creates are within the long tradition of Western painting and are influenced by the early 20th century artists' movement away from representational work, yet they are by no means retroactive.

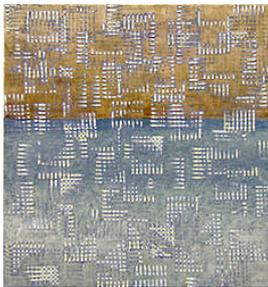
While studying painting and sculpture at Washington University, Griffin was invited to create sculptures for the St. Louis Veiled Prophet Parade centerpiece event of the annual July 4th holiday celebration in St. Louis. Griffin has served as Artistic Director of the parade since 1989, bringing that annual event national attention and prominence. Like other painters who've also worked as commercial artists, Griffin's commercial experience has shaped and influenced his imaginative approach. His work has allowed him to explore a variety of styles and methods – producing public art, in sculpture and painted form, with a heightened interplay of illusion and reality.

For further information, please contact the gallery.

William Griffin: Recent Paintings, is his first exhibition in St. Louis and at Bruno David Gallery. A fully illustrated catalog accompanies this exhibition.

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In the **Project Room**, **Patricia Olynyk** is presenting an exhibition of photographs created during a recent residency as a Francis Wood Fellow at the College Physicians—Mütter Museum in Philadelphia. Her work continues to investigate the often-tenuous relationships between human culture, science and nature, and frequently calls upon viewers to expand their awareness of the worlds they inhabit — whether those worlds are their own bodies or the spaces that surround them. In her latest series, entitled “Probe,” she utilizes a vast inventory of bizarre prosthetic devices and medical instruments collected for their historical value in order to comment on the human desire to fetishize and even anthropomorphize objects used to supplement or probe the human body. Through her photographs, Olynyk draws together both the historical and modern desire to control and manipulate our corporeal selves. Patricia Olynyk is the Director of the Graduate School of Art and the Florence and Frank Bush Professor of Art in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis, Saint Louis, Missouri.



In the **Front Room**, **Margaret Adams** is showing her recent work in an exhibition titled “Blindness”. Her recent work has been inspired by the novel *Blindness* by Jose Saramago. In his novel, Saramago imagined a world gradually overwhelmed by a plague of white blindness, which was used as a metaphor for not seeing, for not being aware of one's self and one's surroundings, psychologically or philosophically. Through contemplation and questioning of their blindness, Saramago's characters ultimately understand themselves in ways previously unknown, and it is this new insight that precedes the gradual return of some kind of normal vision. At the end of the novel, one of the characters concludes, “I don't think we did go blind, I think

we are blind, Blind but seeing, Blind people who can see, but do not.” (Saramago 326). The simultaneity of seeing and not seeing and the dynamic movement between these two states of being is a mystery underlying the human condition. Margaret Adams' paintings simultaneously obstruct and provide an opportunity to see beyond. Her work offers a paradoxical ocular experience and an opportunity for reflection.

In the **New Media Room**, video artist **Jessica Rogan** presents a short video. *Let Me Entertain You* began with the idea of a reverse striptease. A partially clothed woman is proffered for the viewer's pleasure; her body language beckons invitingly as she slowly, sensuously begins to button up her shirt. The contradiction between the reality and the style of her actions taunts and criticizes the viewer, while the inherent humor of her playful tease and the ridiculousness of the result helps to cut its bite. By denying access to her body, the woman repossesses herself and refuses to be made into an object. She piles clothing on in excess, mocking the gaze that would undress her while acknowledging the tradition of the naked woman as object in both art history and pornography.



For further information and visuals, please contact the gallery.

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Bruno David Gallery is a contemporary art gallery and one of the most important places to see art in Saint Louis. The Gallery represents some of the best artists that Saint Louis has to offer, along with artists of national and international reputation. The editors of the St. Louis Magazine awarded the Gallery: *Best Gallery in St. Louis* in 2008. The gallery is located in the heart of the Grand Center arts district, directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.