

October 14, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

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



OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 29, 2008

Opening Reception: Friday, October 31, from 6 to 9 pm

Main Gallery | LAURA BEARD: New Paintings

Project Room | ROBERT PETTUS: 8 min. 20 sec.

Front Room | MARTIN BRIEF: Artforum Series

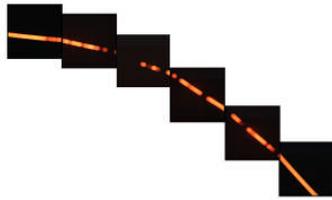
New Media Room | CHERIE SAMPSON: River of Spirit of Life (ice piece)

Bruno David Gallery announces an exhibition of new works by **Laura Beard**.

Charles Schwall's recent essay on Laura Beard's new paintings described them as "filled with gestural and vigorous brushstrokes, often pulled across the canvas in strong horizontal and vertical actions. Beard frequently paints on large sized canvases, and often her choice of scale is larger than the human body. Through the execution of brushstrokes and marks of paint, the presence of the artist's body can be felt in the paintings. Lines and forms move across the surface of each painting with unpredictable uniformity, resulting in a conception of space that is charged with latent geometry. The surfaces of the paintings are created with thick, viscous brushstrokes, but also with more open areas where all definition of mark is completely effaced." She is able to produce energetic paintings that contain an aesthetic that is truly new. Laura Beard's paintings combine both texture and color in such a way as to demonstrate the power and dynamism that is so characteristic of painterly abstraction. Her works are marked by a degree of chaos that is beautifully countered by geometric sequences. This combination brings continuity to her paintings, resulting in a serene sense of balance.

A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Charles Schwall accompanies the exhibition.

Laura Beard was born in Plattsburg, New York. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and printmaking from Colorado State University and a Master of Fine Arts in painting from the University of Washington in Seattle. She lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri.



In the **Project Room**, **Robert Pettus** is presenting a series of photographs entitled “8 min. 20 sec.” Much of Pettus’s work is inspired by an interest in the effects of time. He succeeds in capturing the various hues, tones, and colors that elusively shift throughout the day, change with the four seasons, and vary in response to weather conditions. He achieves this result by capturing the same image over an extended period of time, from the exact same vantage point, at various times throughout the day. Pettus uses a minimalist aesthetic that arrests the

formal qualities of light as it falls upon and defines the forms in his photographs. His work not only alludes to the essence of time and memory, but also effectively encapsulates those fleeting moments that usually go unnoticed. Robert Pettus was born in 1938. He graduated from Washington University and currently lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri. Robert Pettus’ photographic works have appeared in major architectural magazines including: *Architectural Record*, *Architecture*, *Domus*, *Japan Architecture*, and featured in *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*.

In the **Front Room**, **Martin Brief** is showing his recent work in an exhibition entitled “Artforum Series”. His current project is comprised of a series of drawings, each representing a single issue of ARTFORUM Magazine from September 2007 to Summer 2008. Each monthly issue contains 2,500 to 4,000 names, that he transcribed slightly larger or smaller to fit on a 10.5 square inch format (the exact format of ARTFORUM Magazine). Much like Brief’s earlier projects, this work reduces the artists’ names cited in the publication to a series of beautiful, spare drawings. This work can be viewed in two ways: first, as a series of indistinguishable, dark gray squares and secondly, as an intensely intricate schematic. These diametric ways of thinking give rise to two interpretations of the work. The drawings can be perceived as historic markers of this moment in art as seen by the art industry’s premiere publication or as an absurdly obsessive system designed to describe the passing of a year. In either case, these drawings stand as a monument to art, artists and the art world. Martin Brief was born and raised in Chicago. He currently lives in St. Louis where he is an Assistant Professor at St. Louis University.

HEAD GRACIELA TABUINI TIKANLOUTA WYNN
 PATRICK COUTU JEAN-PIERRE AUBÉ YANNICK
 REA DEZSO ADAM BARTOS LAWRENCE BECK
 VANGELINE DOMINIQUE NAHAS MAX BECKM
 JOAN MITCHELL ELIZABETH MURRAY JAC
 AN MARIE STRAUß MARK HOOPER LARRY BELL
 IAN HÉLIO OITICICA NELSON RAMOS ROBE
 RY ELLEN STROM ANN CARLSON CAL LANE
 Y LEA AVITAL ZOYA CHERKASSKY DORON RA
 UCKHABERLE YIN XIUZHEN ADRIAN GHENI
 PAOLO VENTURA ANDREW MOORE MATTHEW
 PAUL STRAND VAL TELBERG DIRK BRAECKM
 ANG PENG HUGO CROSTHWAITE AARON SE
 Z CAROLYN OTTMERS ORI GERSHT ANDY
 HUFFMAN STEVE HUSBY ALICE SHAW CURTI
 IAN JANKOWSKI SIMON ROBERTS GREG STIA



In the **New Media Room**, video artist **Cherie Sampson** premieres a short video titled “River of Spirit of Life (ice piece)”. In the current video piece, the artist inserts her body into natural landscapes, placing herself in the “homeland of [her] maternal ancestry.” The piece, which began as a series of personal rituals, is informed by artistic themes and movements such as classicism, the nude and abstraction, minimalism, feminism, and contemporary performance practices. Working within an intensely slow movement vocabulary, the human form becomes an extension of the architecture of nature and an embodiment of its temporal realities and cyclical change. While evocative of the movement

style of Japanese Butoh and other forms of ritual dance, both eastern and western, the artist focuses on no one single technique, but allows it to emerge as a sensory, bodily, and spiritual response to the immediate environment. While a form of self-portraiture, the video does not portray self as a personality as much as a universal “self” that is at once an integral part of nature and distinguishable from it in its (our) finite human journey. Cherie Sampson lives and works in Columbia, Missouri, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Missouri. Sampson received her Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa and her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Maharishi International University in Fairfield, Iowa.

For further information and visuals, please contact the gallery or visit our website at brunodavidgallery.com.

###

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.