

NEWS RELEASE

LESLIE LASKEY: *Tango*

Opening Reception: Friday, September 11, from 6 to 9 pm
September 11 – October 24, 2009

Project Room and Front Room: *Legacy: The Work of Laskey's Former Students*
Media Room: Dickson Beall: *FRAMES and MOVEMENTS:*
The Artist in Society: Who, What, Where, When and Why?

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BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS NEW WORK BY LESLIE LASKEY

SAINT LOUIS, MO, August 12, 2009 — Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present Leslie Laskey's most recent works in the exhibition titled *Tango*. On view from September 11 to October 24, 2009, the solo exhibition will be featuring his newest drawings and paintings. A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Jim Harris accompanies the exhibition.

The eclectic artist is presenting a series of paintings and drawings inspired by the Argentinean dance. Tango has been a great inspiration for artists, whether they are musicians, filmmakers or visual artists. His fascination for Tango isn't surprising, when one looks at his previous work. Leslie Laskey has already explored the subject in 2006. His series of flower digital prints evoked the sensuality of the dance with hot colors and powerful graphic gestures. Laskey has now chosen another media to further investigate his passion for a dance he has practiced himself.

To create this series, he was inspired by the natural curves of tree branches reminding him of the stances and forms of Tango. His new work is an attempt to reproduce this visual correlation between human and natural forms. His memories lead him to explore the natural, abstract and figurative shapes which, according to him, "feed each other". He has shown his interest for mechanical relationships in his series of paintings entitled *Hinge*. The gestures and steps of Tango dancers are similarly robot-like, their legs and arms tensed and frozen in 'statuesque' movements, nevertheless finding freedom in the arcs of limbs and the swift shift from static to whirling. His former series of trees may be seen as an early introduction to his new *Tango* series where comparable shapes come to life, now dancing on the canvas.

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The creative process is revealed in the drawings. The first ones show distinct figures dancing on a stage. Progressively, the dancer figures scribe circles, their legs and arms rotating as if they were mechanisms created under the artist's hand. The resulting paintings offer great abstract vertical and circular shapes moving and interacting in this robotic ballet. As always, Laskey shows his mastery of colors and his continual exploration of process and realization, found in his Bauhaus roots. His sketches and paintings clearly represent the joining of two opposite forces, both attractive and repulsive. For Laskey, Tango is the balance of opposites, mannered, measured and inventive energies, an idea he successfully rendered in this work. One finds voluptuous and sensual movements followed by a remote coolness in his forms as well as his colors, something visually and emotionally inherent to the Latin dance that often reunites, in an endless pulse the Freudian *Eros* and *Thanatos*, love instincts and death drives.



Leslie Laskey is Professor Emeritus of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis. He studied at the Institute of Design in Chicago (now the Illinois Institute of Technology) with founder and American Bauhaus pioneer László Moholy-Nagy and Indiana University. He currently divides his time between St. Louis and Manistee, Michigan. The Laskey Fund named after Leslie Laskey, is an endowment fund at Washington University in St. Louis and provides funding source for the Laskey Award.

In the **Project Room** and **Front Room**, the gallery presents a group exhibition of multi-media works titled "*Legacy: The Work of Laskey's Former Students*", by Laskey's former students during his long-standing career as a Professor of Architecture at Washington University.

In the **Media Room**, video artist **Dickson Beall** presents a single-channel video titled "FRAMES AND MOVEMENTS: The Artist in Society: Who, What, Where, When and Why?" This 90 seconds video created in 2009 expands the search of who is an artist. Who is an artist? Through what frames does the artist see? How do place and visual marks in time shape movements? Why does the artist make art? From the artist in the cave to the artist in the concept, this video animation plays with those questions and draws out a history of art — in 90 seconds, more or less — about the time it takes to look at a single piece of art.

2009-2010 ART SEASON SCHEDULE

LESLIE LASKEY:	September / October 2009
CHRIS KAHLER:	November / December 2009
BUZZ SPECTOR:	January / February 2010
CINDY TOWER:	March / April 2010
KELLEY JOHNSON:	May / June 2010

Images: Leslie Laskey
TANGO (Azul II), 2009. Acrylic on board, 87 x 52 inches
TANGO (Solo), 2009. Collage and acrylic on masonite, 20 x 28 inches

ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Bruno David Gallery, St. Louis' leading art gallery specializing in contemporary art 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. Located in a stunningly renovated industrial building in the Grand Center arts district, directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Bruno David Gallery's art program has introduced new contemporary art to local gallery goers, and has been discussed in important art publications including, Art in America, Art Papers, ArtNet Magazine.

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