

3721 Washington Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

NEWS RELEASE

April 27, 2011

LAURA BEARD: Thick and Smooth

May 20 – August 20, 2011

Opening Reception:

Friday, May 20, from 6 to 9 pm

Project Room: **Charles P. Reay:** *Recent Sculptures*

Front Room: **Charles P. Reay:** *Metamorphosis*

Media Room: **Ben Weiner:**

$Na + (aq) + C_5H_8NO \rightarrow (aq) NaC_5H_8NO_4(s).$

SAVE THE DATE:

GRAND CENTER ARTWALK

Friday, May 20 from 5 to 9 pm

http://www.grandcenter.org/shows_events/

Media contact:

Bruno L. David, Director

Public Hours:

Wednesday through Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

info@brunodavidgallery.com

www.brunodavidgallery.com

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BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY LAURA BEARD

SAINT LOUIS, MO - Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present **Laura Beard's** second solo exhibition with the gallery entitled "Thick and Smooth". Laura Beard's new paintings and drawings continue her exploration of the primary impulse of abstraction by focusing on the direction and texture of each brushstroke. By using this technique, the paintings take on a structured chaos that is both powerful and energetic. Through pure abstraction, the work strives to engage the emotional impact of color, the structure of human instinct and the complexity of a deliberately flexible process. This unique flexibility allows for the evolution of each new work to build on the experiences of the last. The paintings remain open to change at all stages due to the complex process Beard undertakes in their construction, resulting in each painting's own evolving language. The final layers of refinement, the "thick and smooth", ignited Beard to create a body of work that defies any simple explanation or description. The work seeks to illuminate its viewers through a message of experienced intention, as well as a heightened awareness that is essential to the painted truth that the artist represents. A fully illustrated catalogue with essay by **Nino Bischoff** accompanies the exhibition (publication date: June 2011)

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 between St. Louis and Texas.



In the **Project Room** and the **Front Room**, we are pleased to present **Charles Reay's** first solo exhibition at the Bruno David Gallery titled *Recent Sculptures* and *Metamorphosis*. Charles (Chip) Reay's studio is an intensely personal space, a space removed from the routines of everyday life, where he can indulge his imagination. It is a space, where free association, experimentation, trials and errors, encourages the outpouring of his creative mind. In his studio, there are no rules or standards of taste or beauty. It is a space for pure expression. A fully illustrated catalogue with essays by **Robert W. Duffy** and **Mark Weil**

accompanies the exhibition (publication date: June 2011)

In this current exhibition, Chip shares his studio space with the public, transporting an abbreviation of his treetop studio-sanctuary at his home in St. Louis County to the gallery. Viewers can walk into Chip's world and stand amongst the exuberant variety of objects and ideas that fuel his practice: collections, collages, toys, sketches, clippings, an auto violin, a boy's letter to Santa Claus proclaiming his goodness, a faceoff between Mickey and a real mouse, mannequins, maquettes, photographs, gatherings of memory infused eye candy. The mysterious arrangements and surprising juxtapositions installed in the two gallery spaces encourage the unconscious mind to kick in and transport viewers to exciting new realms of the imagination. This first-hand glimpse into Chip's creative mind is a unique opportunity to learn about wellsprings and the artistic process.

Following the studio experience in the Front Room of the gallery, viewers can walk to the Project Room where Chip's sculptures are displayed. A dramatic contrast to the chaos of the studio space, this room represents the result of his artistic process. Here, viewers can appreciate each sculpture with the added understanding of the infinite web of ideas beneath the surface. This show engages viewers with works of art from the perspective of the artist, an experience that no lovers of art should miss.

Chip's exhibition coincides with the Second Annual Beacon Festival, running from May 30th through June 6th. A full schedule of the festival is available at www.stlbeacon.org/festival. There will be a special celebration for the artist during the festival on Tuesday, May 31st, at 5:30 p.m. at Bruno David Gallery. The event is free and open to the public.

In the **Media Room**, the gallery presents a new video work by New York based artist Ben Weiner titled $Na + (aq) + C_5H_8NO \rightarrow (aq) NaC_5H_8NO_4(s)$. Known for his paintings that achieve enigmatic and transcendent abstractions through cropped magnifications, Weiner's new body of work has given way to a collection of stop-motion videos. Composed of thousands of photographs of synthetic materials, these videos are constructed like moving paintings. While his paintings are based on one or several photographic images, Weiner's videos assemble a long series of photographs into a narrative of abstracted imagery. Each image in the video amplifies the texture, luminosity and elasticity of a material in order to strip it of its function and focus on its inherent illusionistic properties. As viewers, we watch in awe as the vaguely familiar substances coalesce into a mysterious flow of abstraction.



Ben Weiner was born in 1980 in Burlington, Vermont. He received his BA from Wesleyan University and studied independently with muralist Jose Lascarro at the Universidad de las Americas, Puebla, Mexico. Weiner has exhibited his work widely across the United States and in Mexico. He currently lives and works in New York City. The exhibition is in partnership with Mark Moore Gallery, Culver City, CA.

On the **BDG East-Wall**, the gallery presents a temporary life-size woodblocks and paper cutouts installation by New York-based artist, **Swoon** (Caledonia Curry). Several other cutouts will be located around the city of St. Louis. The installation is in conjunction with the SGC International Conference hosted by Washington University in St. Louis - Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts. Swoon is also a member of the Justseeds Artist Cooperative. The installation will be up until fully disintegrated.



Images above:

Laura Beard: *TS Tempest*, 2011. Oil on canvas, 60 x 40 inches

Charles P. Reay: *Installation View (detail)*, 2011

Ben Wiener: *Na + (aq) + C5H8NO - (aq) NaC5H8NO4(s)*, (still) 2010

Swoon: *Ben (St. Louis)*, March 17, 2011

OUR FIFTH SEASON 2010 – 2011 ART PROGRAM

KELLEY JOHNSON	September / October 2010
OVERPAPER	November / December 2010
CHRISTINA SHMIGEL	January / February 2011
CARMON COLANGELO	April / May 2011
LAURA BEARD	May 20 / August 2011
CHARLES P. REAY	May 20 / August (Front & Project Rooms)

ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Bruno David Gallery, is 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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