

NEWS RELEASE

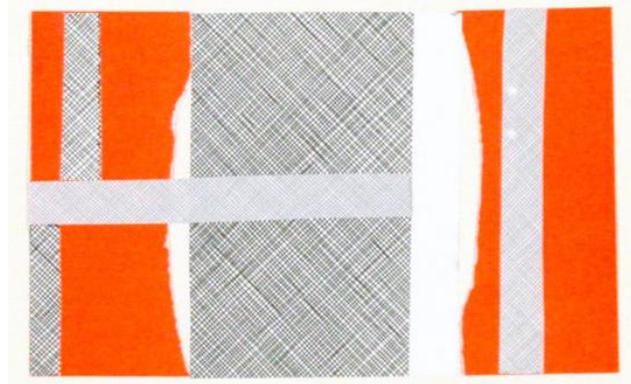
August 4, 2011

LESLIE LASKEY: S.E.N.T.

September 9 – October 15, 2011

Opening Reception:

Friday, September 9, from 6 to 9 pm

WOP Space: **Kelley Johnson:** *Works on Paper Series*Front Room: **MoPA: Retrospective**Media Room: **William Morris:** *Atraxia*Media contact: Bruno L. David, Director
Public Hours: Wednesday through Saturday
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
info@brunodavidgallery.com
www.brunodavidgallery.com
Tel: 1.314.531.3030**BRUNO DAVID GALLERY OPENS ITS SIXTH SEASON WITH AN EXHIBITION BY LESLIE LASKEY**

SAINT LOUIS, MO – Bruno David Gallery opens the fall season with an exhibition of new work by **Leslie Laskey** called ***S.E.N.T. Security Envelopes Now Tattered***. Even as one of the longest, most successful working artists in the St. Louis area, Laskey continually creates work that is new and engaging. The key to Laskey's ever-changing medium resides in the artist's desire to work with what lies in front of him. Laskey draws inspiration from numerous objects, people, places, and his life. It is because of this ability to look at anything and everything as a possible art form that gives Laskey both his longevity and his significance.

After seeing these collages, the viewer will never look at their mail in the same way again. The works that make up *S.E.N.T.* challenge the viewer to question their previously held ideas about the objects they throw away on a daily basis. Laskey opens the audience's eyes to a range of materials, objects and discoveries. Composed of security envelopes, this new series brings to light the different patterns used for the insides of envelopes that, with Laskey's artistic vision, morph into fascinating and energetic pieces. Infinitely varied, the *S.E.N.T.* series becomes an exposition of the colors, shapes, and patterns of envelopes. A fully illustrated catalogue with essays by **Jim Harris** and **Megan Vallowe** accompanies the exhibit.

Laskey's previous work covers a wide range of mediums, including painting, photography, sculpture and woodcuts. In honor of his multi faceted career and impact on the art world, **Steinberg Hall Gallery** at Washington University in St. Louis will be presenting a retrospective of Laskey's work called ***re:VIEWS*** that will coincide with the exhibition at Bruno David Gallery. *re:VIEWS: Leslie Laskey* curated by **Frank Schwaiger** will include work from the 1950s to the present, covering many different mediums as well as work previously shown and works never shown before.

Leslie Laskey is Professor Emeritus of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis. 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 1944 D-Day. Laskey studied at Indiana University and at the Institute of Design in Chicago (now the Illinois Institute of Technology) with founder and American Bauhaus pioneer László Moholy-Nagy. He currently divides his time between St. Louis and Manistee, Michigan.

With the beginning of our Sixth Season, the gallery is pleased to open a new space called WOP Space. In the **WOP Space** we are pleased to present **Kelley Johnson's** most recent work titled *Works on Paper Series*. Johnson's ability to absorb the viewer, produce interesting color combinations, and provide a sense of rapidity and tension are carried over from previous work to these new pieces. What makes Johnson's new works on paper unique and exciting are the ways in which those similar ideas from before are presented in a much more minimalist fashion. Through vibrant colors and swift, almost chaotic brushstrokes juxtaposed with harsh, geometric lines, Johnson is able to produce a world that captivates and engages the viewer. A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by **Meagan A. Ramsey** accompanies the exhibition.

Johnson was born in Houston, Texas and currently lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri. He received his B.F.A. from Parsons School of Design, New York and his M.F.A. from the Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University.



In the **Front Room** the gallery presents a retrospective of the first seven years of the **Museum of Pocket Art (MoPA)**. MoPA began in response to author Walter Mosley's idea that everyone should carry a small piece of artwork in their pocket to brighten their day and share with others. MoPA organizes exhibitions to show in a standard wallet with artwork made specifically to exhibit at a small scale, usually about the size of a business card. The wallet/exhibition circulates from artist to artist for a period of a few months creating a one to one person traveling exhibition.



The exhibition *MoPA: Retrospective* will include over 100 artists who had participated since the first MoPA exhibition including Jeremy Morgan, Amy Elligson, Mario Trejo, Eric Shultis, Robert Jackson Harrington, Josh Keller, Hannah Piper Burns, Donna J Wan, and Jan Bythe.

A fully illustrated catalogue with essay by **Hannah Piper Burns** accompanies the exhibition. The exhibition is curated by Robert Jackson Harrington (Museum Director) and Mario Trejo (Exhibitions Director). (MoPA website: www.mopaonline.com/).

In the **Media Room**, the gallery presents a new video work by **William Morris**. The video titled *Atraxia* illustrates the relationship of a running man to a ringing telephone and its physiological result. The running man symbolizes one's own anxiety; the expectations of performance upon a subject influenced by external stresses. Like the dog in Pavlov's behavioral experiments, the running man hears and reacts to external stimuli. The end animation depicts the effect of the stimulus on the body, in which a direct path between the brain and the digestive system is shown. The viewer hears the repetitive and unyielding ringing of the telephone and watches as the man navigates his way through a field divided by poles as if he will reach a point where he can answer the phone and end its incessant ringing. In a larger context, the ringing phone and the running man combine to produce anxiousness similar to what one might feel in a strange and unfamiliar environment or situation. The state of *Atraxia* is a state of conditioning, the antithesis of sedation.



William Morris lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri. He received an MFA in Video Art at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his BFA from Washington University in St. Louis.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OPENING NIGHT IN GRAND CENTER
Friday, September 9, 2011

The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts

Reflections of the Buddha

Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis (CAM)

David Noonan

Emily Wardill: Sick Serena and Dregs and Wreck and Wreck

Bruno David Gallery

Leslie Laskey: S.E.N.T.

Kelley Johnson: WOP Space

William Morris: Media Room

Images above:

Leslie Laskey: *Untitled I (S.E.N.T. series)*, 2011. Mixed media on paper

Kelley Johnson: *Untitled*, 2011. Oil, acrylic and mixed media on paper, 29 x23 inches

MoPA: 2006-2011 (Jan Blythe, Amy Ellingson, Mario Trejo)

William Morris: *Atraxia*, (video still) 2011

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*.

See our videos/interviews on **VIMEO** at <http://www.vimeo.com/brunodavidgaller> and on **YouTube** at <http://www.youtube.com/user/brunodavidgallery>

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