

3721 Washington Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

NEWS RELEASE

September 23, 2011

CHARLES SCHWALL: *Source Confluence*

Opening Reception:

Friday, October 21, from 6 to 9 pm
October 21 – November 26, 2011

Front Room: **Mario Trejo:** *Centered*
WOP Space: **Bill Kohn:** *Grand Center Series*
Media Room: **Brett Williams:** *Blurs*

Media contact:
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BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY CHARLES SCHWALL

SAINT LOUIS, MO – Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present **Charles Schwall's** second solo exhibition with the gallery entitled *Source Confluence*. Schwall's new paintings investigate his longstanding interest in curvilinear and organic formations found in nature that are connected to growth, water imagery, and the life sciences. The exhibition, *Source Confluence*, explores the origins, metamorphosis, and rhythms of life forces through oil and gouache paintings. The works employ a vocabulary of soft colors distinguished by lightness and subtlety. His abstract imagery combines multiple forms to create forces of expansion and contraction that reveal processes in which organic life appears. A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by **Andrea Ferber** accompanies the exhibit.

Schwall's paintings have shown in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally, including New York, Kansas City, Chicago, Stockton CA, and Asuncion, Paraguay. Recently his work was included in thematic exhibitions that address color as a language and as an abstraction.

Born in Denver, he currently works and lives in St. Louis, and is a teaching artist at The St. Michael School of Clayton. As an educator, Schwall studied the educational system in the municipality of Reggio-Emilia, Italy, and co-edited and co-authored the book, *In the Spirit of the Studio: Learning from the Atelier of Reggio Emilia*. He holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA from Washington University in St. Louis.

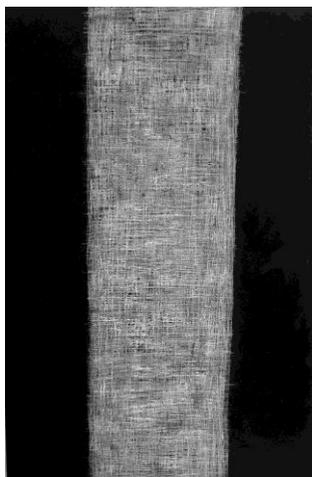
In the **WOP Space**, the gallery presents a series of works on paper titled *Grand Center Series* by the late **Bill Kohn**. In his final body of work, which began in 2002 and continued until his death in November 2004, Kohn returned his focus to St. Louis, painting the landscape of historic and modern buildings around Grand Boulevard in the Grand Center arts district of St. Louis. Kohn created these pieces while



working on several large-scale paintings for the 2006 exhibition *Centering on the Grand* at the CAM (Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis). Kohn stated in 2004 that, “Grand Center as a landscape embodies forces of creativity, decay, restoration, preservation, learning and innovation, interacting over time in the heart of a metropolitan region, whose rich character is often overlooked by its own residents,” which demonstrates his interest in bringing to light the culture and history of the city through his work.

Kohn traveled the world, sharing his vision of many significant places through paintings that were celebrated for their vibrant color and dizzying perspectives. Machu Picchu in Peru, the Duomo in Florence, the bridges of Paris, the Grand Canyon, Khajuraho, and Jaiselmer in India were his favorite sites.

Bill Kohn (1931-2004) was born and worked in Saint Louis, Missouri. Kohn exhibited at the Saint Louis University Museum of Art, Casa de la Cultura in Oaxaca, Mexico, Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis (CAM), Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts in Racine, WI, Saint Louis Art Museum in St. Louis, Indianapolis Museum of Art in Indianapolis, IN, Casa de Cultura in Guadalajara, Mexico, Krannert Museum in Champaign, IL, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, MO, San Francisco Museum in San Francisco, Los Angeles Museum in Los Angeles, and Oakland Museum in Oakland, CA.



In the **Front Room**, the gallery presents an exhibition, titled “Centered” by **Mario Trejo**. This new work is a continuation of the ongoing series “Catharsis”. This series is a refreshing remix of the artist’s process while reiterating his core artistic values. The title has its root in the Greek *katharsos*, for “pure”. The binary chromatics, parity of mark making, and consistency of dimensions evident in all of the pieces are what Trejo has imposed on his own process: a purification of form and content. What results from this structure are compositions that radiate a controlled chaos and a sophisticated treatment of volume, perspective, and scale. Trejo uses a black and white palette to emphasize the contrast between background and gesture. The images he has created utilize this method to elegantly occupy the picture plane as if in a photogram or some sort of electroscopic imaging print. This body of work denotes an evolution of the artist’s vision of the mark as the building block of the performance and remnant, and of the void as the arena for battles between the hand and instrument, space and perception, part and whole. Trejo’s fundamental commitment to purity results in

work that embodies mystery, metaphysical energy, and optical wonder. This commitment serves as a testament to the artist’s disciplined mind and unflinchingly precise hand.

Mario Trejo received his B.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his M.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute. His next exhibition will be at the Illinois State Museum/Chicago Gallery in October 2011. Trejo currently lives and works in Illinois.

In the **Media Room**, the gallery presents a new video work titled *Blurs* by **Brett Williams**. *Blurs* is an investigation of memory and the difficulties associated with remembering.

The way we remember past events in our lives is not reliable and cannot fully be trusted. We construct our memories. Williams spent several hours in wonder and fascination looking down into the cold air return grate in the hallway leading to his grandfather's study. He has strong associations with sound and flashes of images when he tries to remember discreet moments related to the past and his perceived memory. He does not trust his constructed version of the past. Instead, he trusts the rhythms and patterns that emerge from the fog of memory.



Williams is an artist who works in various mediums. He approaches his practice from the Meta narrative and is interested in the post post-modernism/appropriation trans-disciplinary mode of art making. He creates pieces by using discards from multiple sources, works in progress and failed experiments. He lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri. He received an M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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Images above:

Charles Schwall: St. Louis studio view, 2011

Bill Kohn: Bill Kohn in St. Louis/Grand Center 2003

Mario Trejo: *BOOM*, 2011. Ink, acrylic and mixed media on panel, 48 x 36 inches

Brett Williams: *Blurs*, (video still) 2011

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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 of St. Louis, directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM). 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* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

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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