

3721 Washington Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

## NEWS RELEASE

November 16, 2011

### **DAMON FREED: *Life Saver***

#### **Opening Reception:**

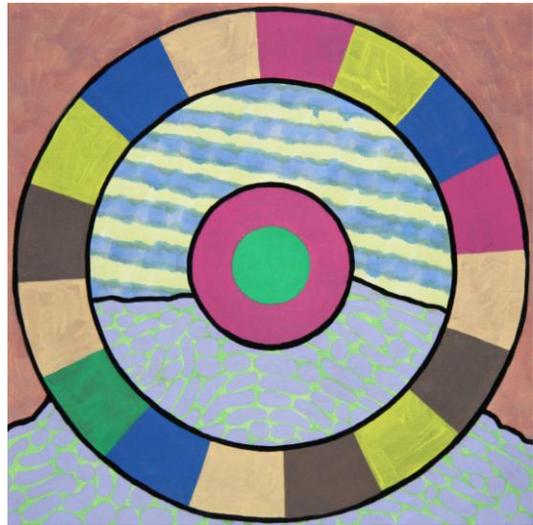
Friday, December 2, from 5 to 9 pm  
December 2, 2011 – January 20, 2012

Front Room: **Shawn Burkard:** *Ye Ol Saint Nick*

Project Room: **Gallery Artists: WOP I**

Media Room: **Dickson Beall:** *Light Diet*

Media contact:  
Bruno L. David, Director  
Public Hours:  
Wednesday through Saturday  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
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Tel: 1.314.531.3030



### **BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY DAMON FREED**

SAINT LOUIS, MO – Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present **Damon Freed**'s second solo exhibition with the gallery entitled *Life Saver*. Continuing his exploration of push and pull, Freed delves deeper into the dichotomy of balance and asymmetry. Driven by his tempo of thought and our contemporary cadence, Freed's new paintings have a pulse. Warm colors accentuated by black outlines vibrate throughout the paintings; their asymmetrical applications offset centered compositions. They are warm, full of life, always moving and always on the verge of further action.

The tension between the potential and kinetic energies of the paintings calls the viewer to mobilize, to play and to find joy in doing so. The paintings are active and reflective, full of opposing relationships, yet embracing of all these qualities. Freed's titles enhance the already-present sense of harmony by grounding the abstract compositions with associations that are either concrete or presented in a language that allows the viewer to collaborate in its meaning.

A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by **Kara Gordon** and poems by **Damon Freed** accompanies the exhibit.

Damon Freed works and lives in Missouri. He received his M.F.A. from Hunter College, New York, and a B.F.A. from the School of Visual Arts, New York.

In the **Project Room**, the gallery presents a group exhibition of works on paper titled **W.O.P. I** by several artists of the gallery including, Carmon Colangelo, Margaret Adams, Jill Downen, Bill Kohn, Alex Couwenberg, Leslie Laskey, Kelley Johnson, Van McElwee, Gary Passanise, Charles Schwall, William Conger, Beverly Fishman, Buzz Spector, Yvette Drury Dubinsky, Frida Baranek, Bunny Burson, Laura Beard, Joan Hall, Patricia Olynyk.



In the **Front Room**, the gallery presents an exhibition, titled “Ye Ol Saint Nick” by **Shawn Burkard**. Part of a series, “The House of Mimesis/Revolving Personalities,” this photograph illustrates Burkard’s Christmas spirit. A unique perspective on the over-commercialization of this religious holiday, Burkard depicts Christmas as a gaudy commercial invention. The fabrication of the scene—the tin foil, the garbage bag as a gift sack—is as contrived as many people’s “holiday cheer,” but there is no pretense in Burkard’s stance. Saint Nick’s facial expression, posture and action of pouring out the milk are cynical and satirical. This shocking visual metaphor sends his message loud and clear: we’ve been bad children and Saint Nick does not want our milk and cookies this year.

In the **Media Room**, the gallery presents a new video work titled *Light Diet* by **Dickson Beall**. *Light Diet* is an investigation of the relationship between past and present. Through this exploration, Beall looks to portray the human experience of change through light and space.



Inspired by the *Reflection of the Buddha* at the **Pulitzer Foundation of the Arts**, Beall’s work with light and movement in space aims to transcend his subject matter. We are constantly moving, constantly burning and replenishing. This process of constant change is beautiful, elegant in its own right. As disparate as the past traditions of the still life might seem to the future realities in artificial intelligence, there is a bridge across the gap. Beall looks to construct and reform this bridge.

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Images credits:

Damon Freed: *Life Saver*, 2011. Acrylic and Flashe on canvas, 21 x 21 inches  
 Buzz Spector: *Over The Ocean Waves*, (detail) 2011. Ink on handmade paper, 26-1/2 x 22-1/4 inches  
 Shawn Burkard: *Ye Ol Saint Nick (Betrayal)*, 2011. , C-Print, 54 x 36 inches, ed. 3  
 Dickson Beall: *Light Diet* (still), 2011

**OUR SIXTH SEASON  
 2011 – 2012 ART PROGRAM**

**LESLIE LASKEY** September/October 2011  
**CHARLES SCHWALL** October/November 2011  
**DAMON FREED** November/December 2011  
**JUDY PFAFF** January/February 2012  
**CHRIS KAHLER** March/April 2012  
**BUNNY BURSON** May/June 2012

**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*.

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