

3721 Washington Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

NEWS RELEASE

February 29, 2012

CHRIS KAHLER: RECENT PAINTINGS

Opening Reception:

Friday, March 9, 2012, from 5 to 8 pm
March 9 – May 5, 2012

Front Room: **Buzz Spector:**

Malevich: with eight red rectangles

Project Room: **Katharine Kuharic:**

Working in the Lou

Media Room: **Van McElwee:**

Supernatural

Media Contact: Bruno L. David, Director
Public Hours: Wednesday through Saturday
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Email: info@brunodavidgallery.com
Website: www.brunodavidgallery.com
Tel: 1.314.531.3030



BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY CHRIS KAHLER

SAINT LOUIS, MO – Bruno David Gallery is pleased to present a new exhibition, “Recent Paintings,” by **Chris Kahler**. Carmine Iannaccone writes of Kahler’s work that “it unhinges the function of representation, loosens the joints of correspondence, makes the presumed determinacy of representation indeterminate.” Kahler’s paintings are *this* but they are simultaneously *that*. Iannaccone goes on to note: “Kahler’s style of abstraction loosens the laws that govern representation, it puts another question into play: what kind of meaning does this species of vision produce?” The meaning, like the work itself, is multi-layered, and invites viewers to connect their own histories with the experience of looking. A fully illustrated catalogue, with an essay by **Carmine Iannaccone**, accompanies the exhibit.

“Kahler’s paintings are very much about physical process, but they are also about the processes by which *images* come into being. They activate the mental mechanisms that search for analogies between what we’re looking at and what we’ve seen elsewhere, between what we’re seeing on the canvas, and what we know about the world. To look at one of these paintings is to engage in just such a searching, a feeling around for meaning, as though the painting were a transparent screen which we hold up to the things around us and look for matches, places where the image lines up with reality or with multiple realities.” Kahler asks us construct meaning out of what we already know in conjunction with the work that is in front of us. In our search for meaning, Kahler pulls us further into his work, immersing us completely in the abstract environment he has created. These abstract environments become representational of a world—our world—and it is this play between abstract and representation that makes Kahler’s work so successful. Chris Kahler is a Professor of Painting and Drawing at Eastern Illinois University. He received his B.F.A. at Ohio Wesleyan University and M.F.A. from Northwestern University.

In the **Front Room**, the gallery presents **Buzz Spector's** groundbreaking 1992 installation, *Malevich: with eight red rectangles*. Spector first exhibited this work in his solo exhibit at Roy Boyd Gallery, Santa Monica, in 1992. Since then this installation of eight handmade unique books plus freestanding wall unit, based on Kasimir Malevich's 1915 painting, *Suprematism: with eight red rectangles*, has been included in several major institutional exhibits, including the 1992-94 national traveling show, "Knowledge: Aspects of Conceptual Art," curated by Phyllis Plous and Frances Colpitt; "Testo e Contesto: il libro-ambiente," curated by Mirella Bentivoglio for the Palazzo Falconieri, Rome, 1998; and "Life Death Love Hate Pleasure Pain" at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, 2002. *Malevich: with eight red rectangles* was also seen in St. Louis in 1995, at the Forum for Contemporary Art exhibit, "On Beyond the Book." In a 1993 interview with David Pagel in *BOMB*, Spector described his homage to Kasimir Malevich this way: "Malevich's ambitions persist in our remembrance of them . . . [the utopian ideal] no longer resides in the paintings he made but in our ability to empathize or share his belief that cultural work can transform human social structures."



Buzz Spector received his M.F.A from the University of Chicago in 1978, combining studies in art and philosophy, and his B.A in art from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1972. He has received three National Endowment for the Arts fellowships (1982, 1985 and 1991) and has exhibited his work in such museums as the Art Institute of Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, The Corcoran Gallery, and the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh. He is Dean of the College and Graduate School of Art in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis. Spector also holds the Jane Reuter Hitzeman and Herbert F. Hitzeman, Jr. Professorship of Art. Spector is the author of several books on art and artists. *Buzzwords*, A book of interviews with Spector, plus new page art, has just been published by the Chicago-based independent artist publishing company, Sara Ranchouse.

In the **Project Room**, the gallery presents an exhibition, titled "*Working in the Lou*" by **Katharine Kuharic**. Kuharic's work is, in a word, alive. Birthed from "unsolicited images," Kuharic manipulates and reconfigures images that our culture has been desensitized to, shocking the viewer and asking the audience to reconsider what they think they know. Taking stock pictures from junk mail, newspapers, magazines and other sources, Kuharic meticulously paints images to create reconfigured histories. Her works highlight investigations into American celebrity, pop and suburban culture, and personal identity politics. A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by **Kara Gordon** accompanies the exhibit.

Katharine Kuharic was born in 1962 in South Bend, IN. She completed her BFA in Painting and Drawing at Carnegie Mellon University in 1984, and then moved to New York City where she studied with Louise Bourgeois and Robert Storr at the School of Visual Arts. Katharine's work has been exhibited in numerous group shows in the US and abroad including Paris, Rome, Tokyo, Stockholm, London, and Amsterdam. She has had fourteen solo exhibitions, including seven at P.P.O.W. Gallery in New York, which represents her work. Most recently, her work has been exhibited in several museum shows: "*Homestyle: A Survey of Works on Paper*" at the South Bend Regional Museum in South Bend, IN, "*Low Road*" at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art Museum in Wilmington, DE, "*The World Brought Low*," a project at the Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis, MO and "*Super Bowl Sunday*" at the St. Louis Art Museum in St. Louis, MO.



Katharine Kuharic's work has been reviewed in *Tema Celeste magazine*, the *Village Voice*, the *New York Times*, the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and *Time Out* magazine. Articles on her work have appeared in *Out* magazine, *Parkett* magazine, and *Arts* magazine. Her work was a featured project for *Bomb* magazine. Katharine Kuharic has received grants from Vogelstein Foundation, the Penny McCall Foundation, Art Matters and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She was named the Milton and Sally Avery Fellow for 2003 and 2004 at the MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, NH, and a Rockefeller Fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Lake Como, Italy. She is Professor of Art at the Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. Kuharic also holds the Kevin W. Kennedy Professorship of Art.

In the **Media Room**, the gallery presents a video work titled "Supernatural" by **Van McElwee**. Just shy of six minutes, this single-channel video is waves of variation that reveal the contours of impossible form. It is as if the process of decay were reversed, causing delicate structures to emerge from the grain of chaos. A John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship funded this work

Van McElwee's body of video work includes over sixty single channel pieces, installations and web projects. Grants and awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, The American Film Institute Independent Filmmaker Award, The National Endowment for the Arts Independent Production Fund (seven time recipient), and a travel grant from the Government of India. Exhibited extensively worldwide, McElwee is represented by The Kitchen in New York, Heure Exquise! in France, LUX in the UK, the Inter Media Art Institute in Germany, Bruno David Gallery in St. Louis and Trabant Gallery in Austria. McElwee is Professor of Electronic and Photographic Media at Webster University in St. Louis.



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Images credits:

Chris Kahler: *Axis-3*, 2012, Acrylic on canvas, 36 x 72 inches

Buzz Spector: *Malevich: with eight red rectangles*, 1992. Books with wall element, size variable

Katharine Kuharic: *Ladue News*, 2011. Oil on Linen; 60 x 40 inches (courtesy of P.P.O.W. Gallery)

Van McElwee: *Supernatural*. 2012, still from video

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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