

**BDG 8<sup>th</sup> Season**

3721 Washington Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63108 USA

**NEWS RELEASE**

August 26, 2013

**LESLIE LASKEY: Windows****Jill Downen:**

*Three-Dimensional Sketchbook* (Front Room)

**David Wild and Lulu Gargiulo**

*Forty-Seven Views of Leslie Laskey* (New Media Room)

**Opening Reception:**

Friday, September 6, 2013, 5-9 pm

**Dates of the Exhibition:**

September 6-October 5, 2013

**NEXT FIRST FRIDAYS IN GRAND CENTER**

September 6 and October 4, from 5 to 9 pm

For further information and images, please contact:

Bruno L. David, Director

Public Hours: Wednesday through Saturday

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Email: [info@brunodavidgallery.com](mailto:info@brunodavidgallery.com)

Website: [www.brunodavidgallery.com](http://www.brunodavidgallery.com)

Tel: 1.314.531.3030

**BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY LESLIE LASKEY**

SAINT LOUIS, MO — August 26, 2013 — Bruno David Gallery announces an exhibition titled *Windows* by **Leslie Laskey**. The opening preview will be **Friday, September 6, 2013** from 5 to 9 pm. First Fridays in Grand Center will also be on the same night.

Leslie Laskey is not only one of the most successful and experienced working artists in the St. Louis area, but an innovative artist whose work never fails to make an impact on how its viewers perceive things. His new and engaging creations often have people walking away seeing something through fresh eyes. Previously, his work *S.E.N.T. Security Envelopes Now Tampered* (exhibited in 2011) consisted of collaged envelope pieces and guided viewers to a new way of thinking about their mail. *Windows*, however, as its name implies, invites its viewers to peer through windows. Each individual piece is a stepping-stone to thinking about windows and the series will change the way you have come to know them, too.

Windows tend to be just ordinary things. They are so common around us and in our lives that we seldom really appreciate their nature of keeping rain out, letting light in, protecting us, or subtly and quietly reflecting back images of what surround them. They frame the world like a series of photographs. Laskey creates this notion in his work, occasionally abstracting these ideas and transforming the windows and what they represent into beautiful reminders of how we view our world each day. He is fascinated by the changing frame and focus: whether a window is allowing us to peer into a space or out of one, whether we are looking through it, at what it is reflecting, or perhaps at the window itself, whether it is broken or whole, there is a kind of majesty to them. Windows act as a transitional ledge between two spaces that can be symbolic of so much more. This series has been thirty-two years in the making for Laskey. His media of choice is ever changing, as is always characteristic of his work. In this body of work, he incorporates collage, oil paint, acrylic, and crayon. It is this variety of media and style that adds to the engaging quality of his work and its impact on his viewers. Without a doubt, *Windows* will offer a new approach to looking through to the other side and make you appreciate just how significant they can really be.

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. He 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. Currently, he divides his time between St. Louis and Manistee, Michigan and is a Professor Emeritus of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis.

(more)

In the **Front Room**, the gallery presents an exhibition by **Jill Downen** titled *Three-Dimensional Sketchbook*. Jill Downen's new work offers a look into the intimate processes she employs in the studio to develop ideas and plan large scale installations. The art invites viewers to survey Downen's work from a new and unexpected perspective. The project features a cabinet of drawers displaying models crafted from plaster, basswood, paper and gold leaf. The small scale of these sculptures explores a reversal of the experience that viewers generally have with Downen's monumental installations. The inverted scale and assembly of the maquettes as miniature installations, each in its own drawer, result in a reconsideration of the forms in relationship to each other, the body and to Downen's art making practice overall.



Downen's art is a focused investigation of the symbiotic relationship between the human body and architecture expressed in temporal installations, drawings, and models. Her art envisions a place of interdependent relation between the human body and architecture, where the exchanging forces and tensions of construction, deterioration, and restoration emerge as thematic possibilities.

Jill Downen is an assistant professor of sculpture at the Kansas City Art Institute. She received the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship (2010), the MacDowell Colony National Endowment for the Arts residency, and Cité International des Arts Residency in Paris. Downen was selected for the 2004 Great Rivers Biennial, a grant and exhibition sponsored by Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and the Gateway Foundation. Downen has been invited to lecture about her work extensively, including the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. and the Luce Irigaray Circle Philosophy Conference in New York. Her art has been reviewed in publications including *Art in America*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *Art Papers*, *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *The New York Times* and *Bad at Sports*. She holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA as a Danforth Scholar from Washington University in St. Louis.

Downen is part of a group exhibition titled *Place is the Space* curated by Dominic Molon at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. The opening for the exhibition is on Friday, September 6, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

In the **New Media Room**, the gallery presents a documentary by West-Coast-based filmmakers, **David Wild** and **Lulu Gargiulo**, on the life and work of Leslie Laskey, "Forty-Seven Views of Leslie Laskey". Shot over an eleven year period, "Forty Seven Views of Leslie Laskey" is a chronicle of the artist, poet and legendary teacher, Leslie J. Laskey. Often described as passionate, demanding, insightful, magical, inspirational and, above all, creative, he is a force to be reckoned with, as illustrated in this beautifully shot film portrait.



Despite being 92 years old, Laskey's ability to create and inspire, as well as challenge and amuse become ever more apparent with each chapter. Watching the film, one gets the idea that for Leslie, art, work, and life are one in the same: "I don't think my art is different from my life; they're intertwined, inseparable. The way I cook, the way I paint, the way I read, and the music I listen to are all one in the same. (from article "The Art of Life, a Life in Art" published in the St. Louis Beacon) Whether he is talking about baking peaches, sharing his ideas for design, or reciting poetry, his passion and energy for life are contagious. We see Leslie in his everyday life and ultimately teaching the people around him to look at the world in new and different ways.

#### ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Specializing in contemporary art, Bruno David Gallery has been a leading art gallery since its establishment in 2005. Bruno David represents some of the best artists that St. Louis offers, along with artists of international reputation. Located in a renovated industrial building in Midtown St. Louis, Grand Center arts district, the Gallery is directly opposite the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM), and is in close proximity to the Sheldon Art Galleries, The Fox Theatre, and Powell Symphony Hall. Bruno David Gallery's art program introduces new contemporary art to local gallery visitors, and is discussed in 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>  
 Visit our blog **Good Art News** at <http://goodartnews.com/>  
 View our **art catalogues** in Ebook at <http://issuu.com/brunodavidgallery>  
 Purchase our **art catalogues** at <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/brunodavidgallerypublications>  
 Friend the gallery on **Facebook** at <http://www.facebook.com/bruno.david.gallery>  
 Follow us on **Twitter** at <http://twitter.com/bdavidgallery>  
 Follow us at **Google+** <https://plus.google.com/11267784125453318003>