

NEWS RELEASE

September 12, 2013

BILL KOHN: Monumental Paintings

Jill Downen:

Three-Dimensional Sketchbook
(Front Room)

Joan Hall & Buzz Spector:

Papers (Project Room)

Opening Reception:
Friday, October 11, 2013
6 to 9 pm

Dates of the Exhibitions:
October 11 – 26, 2013



For further information and images,
please contact: Bruno L. David, Director
Public Hours: Wednesday through Saturday
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
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BRUNO DAVID GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION BY BILL KOHN

ST. LOUIS, MO (September 12, 2013) — Bruno David Gallery announces an exhibition titled *Monumental Paintings* by **Bill Kohn**. The opening preview will be Friday, October 11, 2013.

Bill Kohn was an American painter, and traveled the world sharing his vision of many significant places through his paintings that are celebrated for their striking colors and dizzying perspectives. In his work, he illuminated the architecture and landscapes of places such as the Machu Picchu in Peru, the Duomo in Florence, the bridges of Paris, Khajuraho, and Jaiselmer in India, all of which we recognize for their immense size and beauty. Kohn knew that none of these monumental landmarks could be confined to a mere average-sized canvas. These paintings needed to have a striking presence: a size that mirrored the impression they left.

This exhibition zeroes in on the importance and effectiveness of Kohn's use of scale. It features several of his largest paintings, including a vibrant and immense depiction of the Grand Canyon. Each of the pieces is of a different location, but all are properly portrayed on a vast canvas, and rendered more captivating than the sites themselves. Bill Kohn taught for 34 years at Washington University in St. Louis, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, where he guided the creative and skill development of thousands of students. He encouraged countless other individuals in the visual arts, music, writing and theater by enthusiastically attending exhibits and performances of all types. Although he passed in 2004, Kohn continues to contribute to the cultural wealth of St. Louis through the many works he created during his lifetime.

In the **Project Room**, the gallery presents a two-person exhibition of **Joan Hall** and **Buzz Spector** titled *Papers*. The exhibition will coincide with the conference **Papers! Please!** at Washington University in St. Louis and Webster University (October 17-19, 2013). The conference events and activities will include an array of workshops and demonstrations, lectures, exhibitions, and museum tours. The role paper plays in the creation of our identities as individuals and communities will be a focus of the conference, with discussion about the interconnectivity between art, craft, and theory.

The Friends of Dard Hunter, who will be hosting the conference, is an organization for hand papermakers and anyone with a passion for paper. The name honors the life and work of Dard Hunter (1881–1966), whose travels, research, and writing are the most extensive of anyone in the field of hand papermaking; the organization support the Dard Hunter collection of the Robert C. Williams Paper Museum. Know more at

<http://www.friendsofdardhunter.org/index.html>



In the **Front Room**, the gallery continue to present 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.

Downen is part of a group exhibition titled *Place is the Space* curated by **Dominic Molon** and **Brad Cloepfil** at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.

Photos:

Bill Kohn (*Sunset from Hopi Point*, 1989. Acrylic on canvas, 68 x 182 inches)

Joan Hall and Buzz Spector

Jill Downen (Installation view)

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**BRUNO DAVID GALLERY EIGHTH SEASON
2013 - 2014 ART PROGRAM**

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| LESLIE LASKEY | September 2013 |
| BILL KOHN | October 2013 |
| DANIEL RAEDEKE | November 2013 |

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*.

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