Clark Richert: Pattern and Dimensions

Guest curated by Cortney Lane Stell

June 6 - September 15, 2019
Pattern and Dimensions is a survey exhibition that highlights more than five decades of work by Colorado-based artist Clark Richert. Spanning the museum’s entirety and totaling over forty works, the exhibition emphasizes the evolution of Richert’s practice—from his early years at the University of Kansas to his time in Colorado, spent in Boulder, Trinidad, and Denver. Inspired by artist Mark Rothko’s (1903-1970) use of color and by inventor and architect Buckminster Fuller’s (1895-1983) theories on the structure of the universe, Richert’s practice explores symmetry, patterns, and geometry through painting and other media.

Organized into seven non-chronological sections, this exhibition highlights Richert’s range of investigations, from his early abstractions to his paintings that explore hyperdimensions. The artist’s multifaceted examination of human perceptual limits and societal norms unites all of the works. While the concepts behind Richert’s works may be complex, viewers can intuitively experience the works’ underlying harmonies without consideration of mathematical specifics. Further, Richert believes that pattern and repetition innately resonate with us by reflecting fundamental structures interpreted through human nature.

Thank you to our generous sponsors for their support of this exhibition: Nicky Wolman & David Fulker, Sue Schweppe, NEST Studio for the Arts, CU Boulder Grand Challenge, Boulder Lumber, City of Boulder, Boulder Arts Commission, Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, Colorado Creative Industries, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Clark Richert is represented by Rule Gallery, Gildar Gallery, and David Richard Gallery.

Running concurrently with Clark Richert: Pattern and Dimensions is Clark Richert in hyperspace and Nth Dimension at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver. Learn more at mcadenver.org.

Cover Image: Clark Richert, Starpants (detail), 2012, acrylic on canvas. Image courtesy of the artist and Rule Gallery.
West Gallery

1. *Tree of Life*, 1970
   fluorescent paint on paper
   Courtesy of the artist

Pattern Paintings

   acrylic on canvas
   Courtesy of David Richard Gallery NYC

3. *UWW*, 2013
   acrylic on canvas
   Courtesy of private collection

4. *\( \frac{1}{1} \)*, 2014
   acrylic on canvas
   Courtesy of the Artist and Rule Gallery

5. *Central Core of the Densely Packed II*, 2016
   acrylic on canvas
   Courtesy of David Richard Gallery NYC

   acrylic on canvas
   Courtesy of Rule Gallery

7. *Quantum Zone*, 2013
   acrylic on canvas
   Courtesy of Kelly Mcaleese and Scott Valent

8. *BCC Lattice*, 1982
   acrylic on canvas
   Courtesy of Holly and Steve Baer

9. *EVDPB*, 1975
   acrylic on canvas
   Courtesy of Denver RTD

Pictorial Investigations

    acrylic on canvas
    Courtesy of the artist

11. *Primary Circles*, 1997
    acrylic on canvas
    Courtesy of Tim Lowell

    acrylic on canvas
    Courtesy of the artist

    acrylic on canvas
    Courtesy of Baryn Futa

    acrylic on canvas
    Courtesy of the artist
East Gallery

Early Abstraction

15. Mud, 1962
industrial goop on canvas
Courtesy of the artist

16. Pour, 1962
mixed media on canvas
Courtesy of Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art

17. Exterior, 1962
collage on canvas
Courtesy of Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art

mixed media on canvas
Courtesy of Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art

19. WALDO Coming Through the Wall, 1960
acrylic on canvas
 Courtesy of Susanne and Laurence Frank

20. Cold Beats, 1976
digital transfer of 16mm film (running time 5:26)
Courtesy of Chris Bagley

Drop City

21. Let There Be A Firmament, 1967
fluorescent paint on paper
Courtesy of Gildar Gallery

22. Convex/Concave, 1968
fluorescent paint on paper
Courtesy of Gildar Gallery

23. Triad, 1967
fluorescent paint on paper
Courtesy of Gildar Gallery

photographic c-print
Courtesy of the artist

25. Drop City: Van & Cartop Dome (Interior), 1967
photographic c-print
Courtesy of the artist

photographic c-print
Courtesy of the artist

27. Drop City: Kitchen Complex, 1967
photographic c-print
Courtesy of the artist

archival inkjet on canvas with strobe control console
Courtesy of Gene Bernofsky, JoAnn Bernofsky, Charles DiJulio, Richard Kallweit, and Clark Richert

Works on View
Union Works Gallery

Dimensionality Unpacked

29. Unfolding the Vacuum (series), 1997
digital prints on paper
Courtesy of the artist

30. Drawing of Mold Machine, 1972
colored pencil on paper
Courtesy of the artist

31. Snub Cube, 1973/2019
molded polyethylene
Courtesy of the artist

Museum Exterior

Drop Art

32. Egg Drop, 1962
mixed media
Courtesy of the artist
*On view Thursday, Friday and Saturday when the museum opens.

33. Boot Drop, 1962
mixed media
Courtesy of the artist

Clark Richert, Triad (detail), 1967, fluorescent paint on paper.
Artist & Curator Biographies

Clark Richert
Richert, born in 1941 in Wichita, Kansas, is an artist and teacher known for his colorful, systemic pattern paintings, prints, and animations as well as his broad influence at the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design in Denver, Colorado, where he taught for 28 years.

Richert received his MFA from the University of Colorado Boulder; and his BFA from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. He was a co-founder of the celebrated artist community, Drop City, in Trinidad, Colorado, which received R. Buckminster Fuller’s Dymaxion Award in 1966.

For nearly 50 years, Richert has envisioned—and at times predated—in paint what scientists have sought through empirical observation. Inspired by Mark Rothko’s use of color and Buckminster Fuller’s theories regarding the structure of the universe, Richert explores symmetry and quasi-crystal patterns found in nature and theoretical mathematics. While the concepts behind his often-complex designs may be challenging, Richert believes the underlying harmonies can be intuitively appreciated without understanding the mathematical specifics. He suggests that meaning may be revealed through contemplation. He also respects the individual’s right to interpret art without having to obey the artist’s intent.

Richert was awarded the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 1980. Over the span of his career, his work has been featured at numerous galleries and museums in group and solo exhibitions, including the Walker Art Center, the Cranbrook Art Museum, the Berkeley Art Museum; and can be found in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Wichita Art Museum, Denver Art Museum, Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, ART the Hotel, the Born Hotel, Amoco, Container Corporation of America, and many other prominent private and public collections.

Cortney Lane Stell
Stell is the Executive Director and Chief Curator of Black Cube, a nomadic contemporary art museum based in Denver, Colorado. She has held an independent curatorial practice since 2006, which has included curating numerous exhibitions nationally and internationally for museums, university galleries, biennials and art events. Stemming from a philosophical interest in art as communication, Stell has organized exhibitions that focus on artworks experimental in both conceptual and material nature, including exhibitions with artists such as Liam Gillick, Cyprien Gaillard, Daniel Arsham, and Shirley Tse. Stell holds an MA from the European Graduate School in Switzerland where she is also a PhD candidate in Media Communications.
Exhibition-related Programs

Opening Reception
June 6
5:30pm member preview
6:30-8:30pm free public reception

Artist / Curator Talk
with Clark Richert and Cortney Lane Stell
Hear from exhibiting artist Clark Richert and guest curator Cortney Lane Stell.
June 20
6-7:30pm
$12/$8 members

Screening of Drop City Documentary
Learn about the first rural commune of the 1960s with this true story of whimsical innovation and the drive to create a new civilization on the scrapheap of a wasteful society.
July 28
4:30-6:30pm at the Boedecker Theater
$12/$8 BMoCA and Dairy Arts Center members
In partnership with Dairy Arts Center

When the Stars Align: Painting and Physics
Join University of Colorado Boulder professors Dr. Erica Ellingson, Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences, and Dr. Steve Nerem, Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences, for scientific insights into Richert’s work.
September 6
6:30-7:30pm
$12/$8 members
In partnership with NEST Studio for the Arts

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Inside Out
Pard Morrison: Heartmouth
August 17 – December 31, 2019

Present Box
Richard Stephenson: Light and Shadow
July 18 – August 4, 2019

Fall 2019 Exhibitions
Adriana Corral: Unearthed
October 3, 2019 – January 19, 2020

Gretchen Marie Schaefer: Power Positions
Guest Curated by Cortney Lane Stell

Please Do Not Touch Works of Art
Flash Photography Not Permitted

BMoCA
Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art
1750 13th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302
303.443.2122
BMOCAnoimage