

## NEWS RELEASE

BRUNO DAVID GALLERY  
7513 Forsyth Boulevard  
Saint Louis, MO 63105

Tuesday -Saturday 11am – 5 pm  
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### EXHIBITIONS FOR MARCH | APRIL 2023

Exhibition Dates: March 10 – April 22, 2023  
Opening Reception: Friday, March 10, from 6 to 8 pm

**MARIO TREJO**

*Idiosyncratic Tantrums*

**JIM BRAINARD**

*Bits & Pieces*

**RYAN ECKERT**

*Two Worldviews*

**SARA GHAZI ASADOLLAHI**

*Chaos*

New Media Room

(SAINT LOUIS, MO — February 16, 2023) — Bruno David Gallery is pleased to open four solo exhibitions by artists with established studio practice: Seattle-based artist **Mario Trejo**, Iowa-based artist **Ryan Eckert**, St. Louis-based artist **Jim Brainard**, and Atlanta-based artist **Sara Ghazi Asadollahi**.

Bruno David presents *Idiosyncratic Tantrums*, an exhibition of recent work by **Mario Trejo**. This is the artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery.

Mario Trejo's work features extensive accumulations that visually explore eternity and struggle through manic mark making. Considering the concepts of time, space, and number, He creates hundreds of thousands of marks, exhibiting conscious and sensitive attention to both detail and the whole. He begins to form small universes, each a relic of the arduous performance of repeated gestures. reconciling personal experience with the ideas of measurement and disorder in conceptual layers; the compulsive mark reflects the eternal battle between himself and his surroundings, but the product becomes a facsimile of the sublime remoteness of the universe in miniature, revealing at once loneliness, futility, chaos, and uncertainty. His current work is a metaphor for the fragile imperium under which we all reside.



Mario Trejo said, "I am fascinated with space, time, and numbers. I draw black accumulations of quickly executed idiosyncratic circles forming abstract compositions. These peculiar marks are a never-ending struggle with myself and my surroundings at a distance. These repetitive, meticulous, and time-based works are all attempts to visualize epic numbers of macrocosmic and microcosmic entities. The amalgamations of hundreds of thousands of circles in varying densities begin to resemble pocket universe, each a relic of an arduous performance of repeated gestures.

The perfect circle is the greatest example of perfection and knowledge. The perversion of its flawless symmetrical form by my hand represents my failed attempt to recreate perfection, and my inability to grasp the ideal. The relentless repetition of these circles is my continuous attempt to comprehend cosmic phenomenon and the human condition. It is the desperate effort of an impotent being to understand unanswerable questions., his work appears to be homogeneous fields of order, but upon closer inspection, each expanse of black marks crumbles into a Promethean struggle, manic fields of chaos and uncertainty.

Mario Trejo was raised in Saint Louis, Missouri. He lives and works in Seattle, Washington. In 2005, he attended The Chicago Art Institute of Chicago, for his BFA. Mario received his Master of Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute. In concurrence with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish an exhibition catalog of the artist's work with an exhibition history and bibliography.

Image: Mario Trejo. *Untitled*, 2022.

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Bruno David presents *Two Worldviews*, an exhibition by artist **Ryan Eckert**. This will be his second solo exhibition with the gallery. In concurrence with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery will publish a catalogue of the artist's work with an in-depth exhibition history and bibliography.

Ryan Eckert's structural abstractions explore ideas about the state of splitting worldviews, depicted through the lens of biblical Christianity. Eckert's work presents the clashing of ideals to the point of hostility through the means of deconstructing nonrepresentational forms, lines, and structures. The internal process of coping with the outrage within modern culture is displayed within each canvas. Each layer of his canvas reacts to the next, a process which leaves the works both chaotic and restful in moments, becoming a parallel to navigating the living world. His surfaces range in complexity, allowing mark making to be heavily thinned and layered, or bold and instantaneous. Paint, markers, and paper are used purposefully throughout the paintings. Each medium is necessary to and inseparable from its surface, which creates the dynamic, yet playful tension that is explored through the vast ethereal voids of his canvases.



Ryan Eckert received his BFA and MA at Eastern Illinois University in 2015 and 2017 respectively. He then went on for an MFA at Arizona State University in 2020. He is currently a Professor at Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA.

Image: Ryan Eckert, *Diving for a Light*, 2022. Acrylic, mixed media on canvas, 36 x 24 in.

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Bruno David presents *Bits & Pieces*, an exhibition by St. Louis-based artist **Jim Brainard**. This will be his first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Jim Brainard creates assemblages made from found often-neglected objects such as tree bark, used matches, and corrugated cardboard. He also scavenges small mysterious pieces of trash to be used in future projects. His view of the environment and looking at common objects in a different way makes his small, detailed assemblages thought provoking. By careful execution Jim arranges the found items into collages that are visually appealing. By creating these assemblages from found items Jim's abstract compositions inspire contemplation.

Assemblage "à la Joseph Cornell" became an important mode of creation for Jim Brainard. Jim begins by assembling disparate elements of pre-existing, non-art everyday objects that create a pleasing composition. As the piece progresses the "Bits and Pieces" meld together to create a finished work. It is one thing to collect the disparate items, but it is quite another to arrange the items in an aesthetically pleasing manner.



Assemblage became a way to express not only aesthetic choices but also conveys civil and social meaning. By accumulating pre-existing items that are visually appealing. Jim Brainard, influenced by the Surrealists and Joseph Cornell, has created intimate works that are environmentally sound. The more mysterious the item's origin the more compelling addition it is to a creation. Although the collages are two dimensional, they exhibit a three-dimensional appeal.

Jim Brainard was born in 1940 in Arkansas. He moved to St. Louis in 1964. After graduating from the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Art, his professional career was spent as an illustrator before retiring. In concurrence with the exhibition, Bruno David Gallery Publications will publish an exhibition catalog of the artist's work with an exhibition history and bibliography.

Image: Jim Brainard, *Bits & Pieces 13*, 2022. Assemblage of found objects, 5 x 5 in.

Bruno David presents *Chaos*, a video work by Iranian-born, Atlanta-based multi-disciplinary artist **Sara Ghazi Asadollahi**. This is artist's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery.

This video work "Chaos" is a visual interpretation of the timeless and deeply emotional poem by the Iranian poet, Furūgh Farrukhzād: "To my abode, if thou should come, bring a light, O gentle one, and a casement, from which I might view the bustle of the street below." It is a tribute to Farrukhzād's artistry and a meditation on the universal human experiences of love, loss, and the passage of time.

Sara Ghazi Asadollahi's studio practice delves into the intricate relationship between the past and future as they intersect in ruins. With a rich background in both Visual Art and Film Studies, Sara masterfully blends a range of mediums, including painting, sculpture, and video, to challenge conventional forms and push the boundaries of creative expression.



Sara Ghazi Asadollahi holds a B.A. and M.A. in Iran and an M.F.A. degree from the Sam Fox School of Visual Arts & Design, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate (Film and Media Studies) at the Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia. Sara's artworks have been included in exhibitions across Europe, Iran, and the United States.

Image: Sara Ghazi Asadollahi. *Chaos* (still), 2022. Color, sound, one-channel; 2:05 minutes. (Music by Bahar Royae, vocals by Deniz Khateri)

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Mario Trejo, Ryan Eckert, Sara Ghazi Asadollahi, Jim Brainard, and Bruno L. David are available for interviews. For images and additional information, please contact Bruno David or Cleo Kelly, at [info@brunodavidgallery.com](mailto:info@brunodavidgallery.com)

Bruno David Gallery

Public Hours:

Wednesday - Saturday 11 – 5 pm, and by appointment

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#### ABOUT THE BRUNO DAVID GALLERY

Founded in 1984 in New York City, Bruno David Gallery has been a leading art gallery since its establishment in Saint Louis in 2005. Bruno David represents some of the most innovative artists practicing in Saint Louis, along with artists of international reputation.

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