

**BMOCA**



Fall Exhibition 2022

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**Kristopher Wright: *Just As I Am***  
**East Gallery**

September 29, 2022 –  
February 19, 2023

## Kristopher Wright: *Just As I Am*

Kristopher Wright intertwines the disciplines of painting and printmaking in his compositions filled with color and complexity. His practice takes influence from American iconography, machine diagrams, and personal narratives. In his works, he explores themes of joy, community, and healing. Wright's hybrid approach results in a body of work that feels constantly in motion, moving through the boundaries of painting and printmaking effortlessly. *Just As I Am* presents his latest body of work in a harmonious playback, reminiscent of the fluidity and gradual buildup of a classic record.

Wright's creative process begins with a found photograph. However, the artist quickly departs from the language of photography as he investigates how an image can shapeshift, changing form as it evolves through the disciplines of painting and printmaking. He begins his process by laying the painting's "ground," often applying gesso to the canvas in color planes of matte light blue, salmon pink, or green. Wright describes what happens next as a kind of chess game. An intuitive element unfolds as he adds additional hues that help reveal or strip down information within the painting. During these steps, he considers how parts of the surface will be shaded or partially covered by black ink during the subsequent screenprinting process.

Wright then departs from the discipline of painting as he transfers the unstretched canvas from the wall to the floor to begin printing. This shift marks a moment of transference in that the artist redirects how an image is presented and communicated to the viewer. Wright prints directly on top of the painting's surface in select areas using anywhere from 8-30 screens, creating layered moments of intricate patterning and shading. Wright intentionally places the screens slightly off-kilter so that they do not completely align with the underlying painting. These ever-so-slight moments of mis-layering emphasize the margins between painting and print and bring the viewer inward for closer inspection.

*Just As I Am* features 16 new, large-scale works that capture moments within places of sanctuary—communal backyard barbeques, sitting around the kitchen table, or time together in the living room after a satisfying meal. These moments of gathering are symbolic of liturgical spaces in that they prompt feelings of gratitude, togetherness, and inclusivity. The power in Wright's work comes from his ability to translate these anonymous, humble snapshots into compositions that connect and resonate with the viewer in ways that feel deeply personal, even sacred. Wright's work meets the viewer with a raw sense of familiarity and comfort despite the ambiguity of who his subjects are. Identifying the subjects becomes less important than experiencing the feelings of security and joy nurtured within the works.

*Fire In My Bones* depicts two central figures sitting at a dining room table. A young child blows out the candles of what we can assume is her birthday cake. Looking on, an older woman delights in this significant occasion in the adolescent's life and reflects on another year gone by. Wright depicts this snapshot moment in time between two generations in the foreground of the hybrid painting, while the background references elements of classic vanitas or still life paintings. Freshly bloomed flowers sit on the table across from the birthday cake, and a bowl of fruit, assorted vessels, and a pineapple—a symbol of hospitality and comfort—are positioned in the background. Wright layers these objects as inanimate characters that punctuate the compositional narrative. The fleeting, transient nature of fresh flora and ripe fruit reference another year of life gone by in a blink.

Cover image: Kristopher Wright, *Dark Was The Night* (detail), 2022, acrylic ink and paint on canvas. Image courtesy of the artist.



Above: Kristopher Wright, *Fire In My Bones* (detail), 2022, Acrylic Ink and Paint on Canvas. Image courtesy of the artist.

Wright discretely places elements of traditional still lifes throughout his paintings like “Easter eggs,” messages or features hidden within movies or video games. Viewers experience “aha moments” once they discover these elements. The artist brings the classic still life into a contemporary context by overlaying hand-drawn diagrams onto his hybrid works. Wright describes the moments depicted in his works as “social engines,” or symbols for the constant personal repair and maintenance needed to grow and better oneself throughout life. Each line with an accompanying number references not only a fragmented machine diagram but also a disassembled clock. Each dash or tick counts down or traces the passage of time moment by moment.

### Artist Biographies

**Kristopher Michael Wright** is an American artist, educator, and curator who was born in Denver in 1991. He is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where he studied painting and printmaking. Now based in Colorado’s San Luis Valley, he uses print and painting techniques together to construct images full of color and complexity.

Taking influence from American iconography, machine diagrams, anatomical studies, and personal histories, Wright deploys his materials in brash yet thoughtful ways. He explores themes of joy, tragedy, and a search for meaning within a landscape of contradiction. His piece *Out The Mud* is about the quiet moments in which we find ourselves amongst the chaos of life. Moments that allow us to lie on the floor, be still, rest, and recalibrate.

Since leaving Chicago, his works have been exhibited in various group exhibitions throughout Denver and Chicago, most notably at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago’s Sullivan Galleries and at Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry.

## Exhibition-related Programs

### Opening Reception

Thursday, September 29  
5pm member preview  
6-8pm free public reception

### Experimental Painting + Photography with Kevin and Kristopher: A Workshop

January 14  
1-3pm  
\$75/\$70 members  
In partnership with Mike's Camera

Join Exhibiting Artists Kevin Hoth and Kristopher Wright as they guide participants through several experimental painting and photography methods, encouraging them to push against the expectations of how a found image can operate within artistic practices.

### Virtual Studio Tours with Exhibiting Artists

October-January; Various Thursdays  
12-12:30pm  
Free

Exhibiting Artists take viewers on Instagram Live behind the scenes of their studio practices.

## Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

### Fall 2022

#### *Plane of Action*

Kevin Hoth & George P. Perez  
September 29, 2022 - January 22, 2023

#### *Erin Kang: A Home In Between*

September 29, 2022 - January 22, 2023

#### **BMoCA at Frasier**

##### *Belgin Yucelen: Shifts Over Time*

May 30, 2022 - October 9, 2022

#### **BMoCA at Macky**

##### *Marcella Marsella: Aqueous Bodies*

August 29 - November 13, 2022

*BMoCA's annual exhibition fund is generously underwritten by the Scintilla Foundation, Nicky Wolman & David Fulker, Sue Schweppe, City of Boulder, Boulder Arts Commission, Scientific & Cultural Facilities District, Colorado Creative Industries, and National Endowment for the Arts.*

Please Do Not Touch Works of Art  
Flash Photography Not Permitted

# BMoCA

Boulder Museum of  
Contemporary Art

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