

## Clark Richert: Pattern and Dimensions

June 6 - September 15, 2019

Guest curated by Cortney Lane Stell

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Pattern and Dimensions is a survey exhibition that highlights more than five decades of work by Coloradobased 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.

#### Works on View

## West Gallery

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

#### Pattern Paintings

- 2. A/C Triacon, 2008 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
- 6. Starpants, 2013 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

- 10. Periodic Pyramid, 2002 acrylic on canvas Courtesy of the artist
- 11. Primary Circles, 1997 acrylic on canvas Courtesy of Tim Lowell
- 12. A.R.E.A., 2013 acrylic on canvas Courtesy of the artist
- 13. Drop City, 2011 acrylic on canvas Courtesy of Baryn Futa
- 14. Octaval Complex, 1987 acrylic on canvas Courtesy of the artist

#### Works on View

## 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

18. Vacuum System, 1962 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

24. Drop City: Van & Cartop Dome, 1967 photographic c-print Courtesy of the artist

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

26. Drop City: Theater Dome, 1967 photographic c-print Courtesy of the artist

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

28. The Ultimate Painting, 1966/2011 archival inkjet on canvas with strobe control console Courtesy of Gene Bernofsky, JoAnn Bernofsky, Charles DiJulio, Richard Kallweit, and Clark Richert

### 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

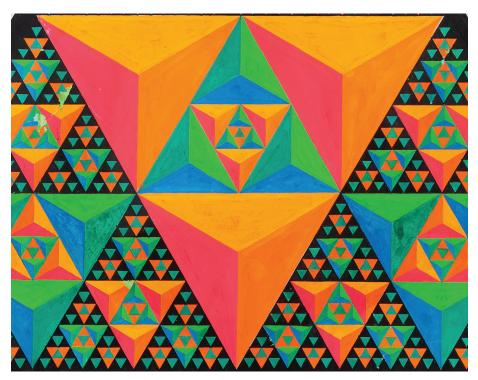
31. Snub Cube, 1973/2019 molded polyethylene Courtesy of the artist

## 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.



Clark Richert, Tree of Life (detail), 1970, fluorescent paint on paper.

## 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

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Please Do Not Touch Works of Art Flash Photography Not Permitted

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