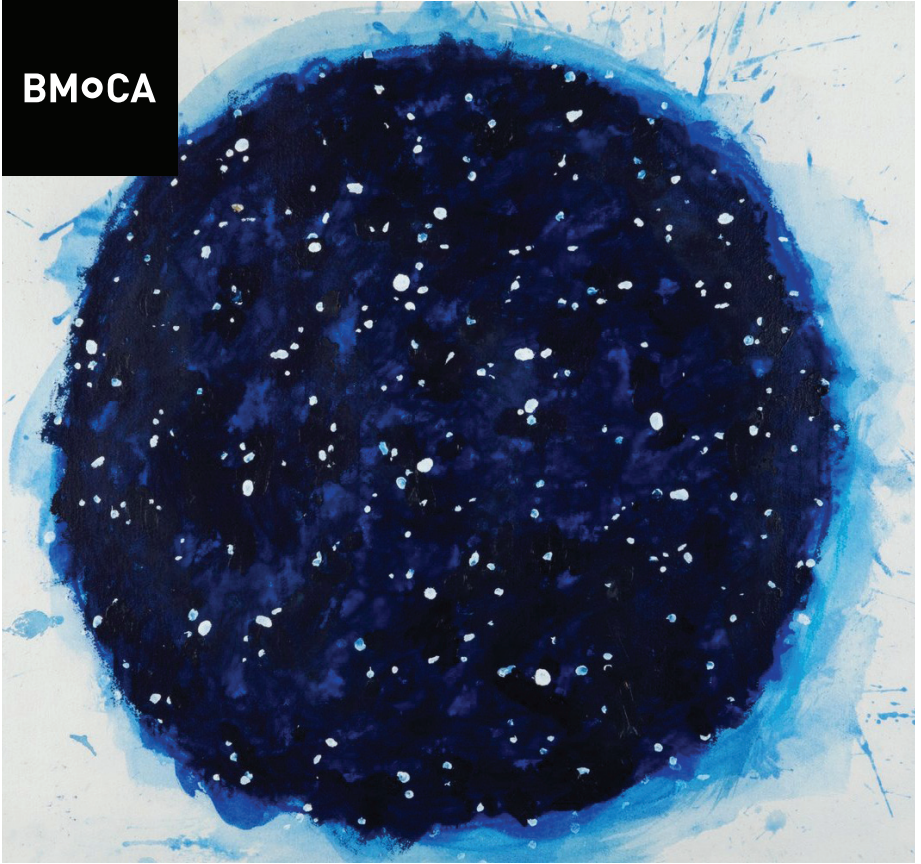


**BMoCA**



Fall Exhibition 2020

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***John Torreano: The Big Picture  
– Painting From The Universe***

September 3 – January 29, 2021

Guest curated by Julie Augur

## **John Torreano: The Big Picture - Painting From The Universe**

As you enter John Torreano's exhibition, you are entering various constellations and formations of the universe, places we cannot see without a high-powered telescope. These paintings are big. How else can we relate to the hugeness out there? Some of the works are violent, as in *Edge*, portraying explosive happenings we are not aware of, and some are calm, as in *A Star(s) is Born* with its womblike structure birthing stars. *Gases in Omega Swan*, the largest work in the exhibition, depicts the ongoing movement of swirling gases and clouds in one of the many formations buried in the universe.

Two of the works in the West Gallery, *Swarm* and *Double Spin*, are examples of Torreano's venture into the abstract. In these works, he uses gems and balls in a different way but relates them to the pieces inspired by photographs from the Hubble Space Telescope. *Swarm* has a scattered feeling with its star-like gems and various white orbits smashing into each other, while *Double Spin* has the darkness of the universe with its mysterious orbs circling about, threatening to collide.

The East Gallery features Torreano's drawings as well as paintings. The paintings are abstractions employing the jewels/gems, balls and paint in a free-form manner, but the titles still relate to formations in the universe. Torreano takes the same approach with the drawings. Some drawings are studies for paintings, some are studies of star clusters, and some verge into energized abstract work. All reference the universe, which has inspired and fascinated Torreano for years. Welcome to his muse and his unique interpretation of the magic, invisible energy that surrounds us.

-Julie Augur, Guest Curator



Cover image: John Torreano, *Universe* (detail), 1973, acrylic and watercolor on paper. Courtesy of Jenny Gorman. Above image: John Torreano, *Paint/Jewel Jewel/Paint* (detail), 1986-2011, acrylic, Krylon and gems on plywood panel. Courtesy of Gary Mamay.



Above: John Torreano, *Eagle* (detail), 2007, acrylic, wood balls and gems on 4 plywood panels mounted on aluminum angle. Courtesy of Jenny Gorman.

## Artist Biography

**John Torreano** (b. 1941, Flint, Michigan) earned his BFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and his MFA from Ohio State University, where he studied perception as it relates to painting. Torreano has lived in New York City since 1968. He has worked in painting, sculpture, and print-making. Torreano's work has been exhibited internationally at museums and galleries, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council of the Arts. Torreano recently retired as Professor of Studio Art at New York University. He also taught at NYU Abu Dhabi as well as the school's sites in Florence and Venice.

**Julie Augur** earned her degree in art history from Barnard College in New York in 1969. She then worked at Parasol Press publishing limited edition prints by Brice Marden, Sol Lewitt, and Agnes Martin, among other artists. Augur moved to Aspen in 1977. She has curated many exhibitions for the Aspen Art Museum. In 1982, she curated a collection of 150 works of art auctioned at Christie's which was to raise money for Creative Time, an arts organization in NYC.

She has served on numerous boards and committees for arts organizations, including: the board of Wave Hill, Riverdale, NY; the drawings acquisition committee for the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the artist grants award panel for the National Endowment for the Arts; the Collections Committee of the National Gallery, Washington, D.C.; and the board of the Clyfford Still Museum, Denver. Since 2005, Augur has served as Adjunct Curator of Modern and Contemporary Drawings at the Denver Art Museum.

## **Exhibition-related Programs**

### **On-Site Opening Reception**

September 3, 2020

5:30-6:30pm member preview

6:30-8:30pm free public reception

## **Virtual Exhibition-related Programs**

### **Filmed Artist Talk with John Torreano**

September 24, 2020

6:30-7:00pm

Join Fall 2020 Exhibiting Artist John Torreano as he speaks about his BMOCA exhibition *The Big Picture – Painting From The Universe*. Dive into his practice and processes through a filmed interview by BMOCA.

### **Expanding Horizons**

October 15, 2020

6:30pm-7:15pm

An exploration of the universe through the lens of Native American interpretations of the night sky. BMOCA is joined by Professor Erica Ellingson of the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences at University of Colorado Boulder and Professor Len Necefer, CEO/Founder of Natives Outdoors, and of University of Arizona.

## **Current & Upcoming Exhibitions**

### ***Nyeema Morgan: THE STEM. THE FLOWER. THE ROOT. THE SEED.***

September 3 - January 29, 2021

Guest curated by Rose van Mierlo

### **Present Box**

#### ***Christina Battle: Notes to Self***

October 8 - October 25, 2020

Guest curated by Rose van Mierlo

### **InsideOut**

#### ***Steven Frost: Helen & Alice at the Museum***

February 6 - March 15, 2021

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*Eleanor and Henry Hitchcock Charitable 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

Boulder Museum of  
Contemporary Art

# **BMOCA**

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