

The logo for Fred. gallery, featuring the word "Fred." in a white, sans-serif font on a black square background.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **HOMAGE**

April 6 – May 7, 2023 / *Opening Reception: Saturday, April 8, 2023*

*Curated by Derek G. Larson and Jeff Wallace*

*Featuring artists:*

Alex Paik, Ato Ribeiro, Austin Ballard, Dakota Gearhart, Derek G. Larson, Henry Chapman, Jeff Wallace, Leah Beeferman, Leslie Roberts, Stephen Sollins, Suzanne Song, Taylor Baldwin, Theresa Ganz

BROOKLYN, NY – Could the prevalence of our scrolling culture be a result of intentional design? Edward Bernays, an influential American advertising pioneer who drew inspiration from the Bauhaus movement, believed that geometric shapes and patterns had the power to sway human emotions and convince individuals to support products and causes. Geometry has long been a crucial element of art, influencing artists of diverse styles and mediums for centuries. With the emergence of social media, this influence has only intensified, impacting not only the creation and appreciation of art, but also the human mind.

The artists featured in HOMAGE draw inspiration from the geometric principles of Gropius, Moholy-Nagy, and the New Bauhaus, integrating algorithmic components into their artworks. HOMAGE displays an assortment of pieces that incorporate both traditional crafting techniques and artificial intelligence storytelling to classify and situate us within an array of diverse media, urging us to contemplate the structure of social media. Although these works may seem machine-generated at first glance, a closer look exposes the human touch behind them.

*Benefitting Smack Mellon*

This exhibition will benefit Smack Mellon's *Art Ready* education program. The artists featured in HOMAGE have agreed to donate a portion of sales to this important Dumbo institution.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Alex Paik's** work explores the relationship between forms, color, and structure, highlighting the impermanence and adaptability of these elements. Paik's installations are modular and consist of repeated geometric shapes, which can be rearranged and reconfigured to create new patterns and compositions. One of Paik's signature techniques involves folding and cutting sheets of paper into intricate patterns, which are then layered and arranged to create a three-dimensional effect. His use of bright, bold colors and geometric shapes creates a dynamic interplay between positive and negative space, drawing the viewer's eye across the installation and encouraging them to explore the piece from different angles. Paik's installations often take on a site-specific quality, responding to the architecture and environment of the exhibition space. By working with modular, adaptable forms, he creates pieces that can be reconfigured to fit different spaces and contexts, emphasizing the interconnectedness of form and environment.

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**Ato Ribeiro's** work is deeply rooted in the exploration of communication through the medium of traditional textiles. He draws inspiration from the rich history and cultural significance of fabrics and African American quilts, examining the various modes of communication that are embedded within them. In his pieces, Ribeiro masterfully combines the traditional techniques of textile art with contemporary approaches to create a unique visual language. He often incorporates elements such as text, symbols, and images into his designs, creating layered narratives that speak to the complexities of cultural identity and history.

**Austin Ballard** is a sculptor known for his ability to take the geometric rhythm of cane webbing and turn it into organic shapes that challenge our understanding of the material's function. By manipulating the form and texture of cane, he creates dynamic sculptures that blur the lines between functionality and aesthetics. His works often evoke a sense of movement and fluidity, as if they were frozen in a moment of transformation. Through his art, Ballard invites viewers to reconsider the potential of everyday materials and to appreciate the beauty in unexpected places.

**Dakota Gearhart** is an artist and animator whose work explores the potential of artificial intelligence through a unique blend of science fiction, fantasy, and documentary. Her process involves interviewing experts in the field of AI, gathering insights and perspectives on the technology's past, present, and potential future. She then injects fictional animals into her narratives, imagining how these creatures might exist in a world where AI has advanced beyond our current understanding. Gearhart's animations are highly conceptual, tackling complex themes such as morality, consciousness, and the nature of existence itself. By using a variety of artistic techniques, including hand-drawn animation, digital rendering, and motion graphics, she creates visually stunning works that captivate viewers and challenge them to contemplate the future of technology and its impact on humanity.

**Derek G. Larson** is an artist and animator who creates the animated documentary series *Très Mall* that has been showcased at venues and festivals around the world. *Très Mall* is one of Larson's most well-known projects, the animated documentary series features interviews with prominent academics and experts discussing a wide range of topics, from philosophy and the environment to the Anthropocene and more. Larson uses a combination of hand-drawn animation, digital animation, and motion graphics to bring these interviews to life, creating a visually stunning and intellectually engaging experience for viewers. Larson's work on *Très Mall* reflects his deep interest in the intersection of art, science, and technology. Through his animations, he explores complex themes and ideas, inviting viewers to engage with them in new and innovative ways.

**Henry Chapman's** paintings are inspired by the use of triangles as a central form and the idea of movement. He uses words positioned in a clock-like fashion to represent the passage of time and the ebb and flow of life. The words themselves are not the only language of the painting, but rather a part of the overall language of color and form that Chapman uses to create his works. Chapman's use of triangles is intentional, as they represent a shape that is both stable and dynamic, allowing him to explore the contrast between stillness and movement. He incorporates this shape into his paintings in various ways, sometimes using it as a central form, while at other times it is used as a repeated motif throughout the work. The words in Chapman's paintings are carefully selected, and their placement within the painting is just as important as the color and form. The words serve as a reminder of the passing of time and the inevitability of change, while also adding an element of personal expression to the work.

**Jeff Wallace** follows a unique artistic process of dismantling books, a practice that has become a form of meditation for him. He carefully deconstructs each book, separating the pages, covers, spines, and bindings. Wallace then takes these disparate elements and reassembles them into multi-layered paintings. Through his use of geometry and found color, Wallace creates works that offer a new perspective on the relationship between form and content. His paintings, which rarely incorporate text, challenge the viewer to reconsider the traditional hierarchies of word and image. One of Wallace's ongoing installations, *Stack*, is a metaphor for memory and information recall. The installation consists of a towering stack of disassembled books, each one carefully arranged to create a sense of order and balance. As in a real-life stack of books, the last item stored is the first item retrieved, suggesting the cyclical nature of memory and the constant process of learning and forgetting.

**Leah Beeferman** is an artist whose work revolves around video footage of the Arctic Circle. She uses a variety of techniques to manipulate the footage, including cutting and rearranging it into moving collages and prints. By doing so, she creates a visual language that speaks to the interconnectedness of the natural world and the patterns that exist within it. The geometric shapes and patterns in Beeferman's work create a sense of order and stability, contrasting with the unpredictable and ever-changing natural world. Through her art, she seeks to explore the tension between the man-made world and the natural world, and to highlight the beauty and fragility of the latter. Beeferman's work often evokes a sense of mystery and vastness, as if she is uncovering hidden patterns and secrets within the Arctic landscape. Her pieces are at once meditative and awe-inspiring, inviting viewers to contemplate the majesty of the natural world and their place within it.

**Leslie Roberts'** works are a unique exploration of language. She takes collected lists, such as to-do lists or grocery lists, and transforms them into visually stunning pieces of art that resemble hieroglyphic forms and geometric abstractions. Through her work, Roberts examines the relationship between language and form, and how we can use language to create meaning beyond the words themselves. Her use of color and texture adds depth and complexity to the works, creating a sense of movement and energy. By exploring the vernacular of collected lists and transforming them into abstract forms, Roberts challenges our assumptions about language and the way we communicate. Her work encourages us to look beyond the surface level of words and consider the deeper meaning behind them, and how we can use language to create new forms of expression.

**Stephen Sollins** is known for his unique and thought-provoking works of art that explore the themes of time, memory, and silence. He works primarily with everyday materials such as paper, envelopes, and other found objects to create his works. One of his most well-known pieces is a modern-day quilt made entirely out of used envelopes. The piece is a large-scale installation that consists of hundreds of envelopes stitched together in a patchwork style. Each envelope is unique, with different markings, stamps, and postmarks that reflect the passage of time and the journeys they have taken. The quilt is a meditation on the passage of time, the act of communication, and the idea of silence. The envelopes, once a means of communication, are now silent and still, frozen in time as a physical record of their journeys. By transforming them into a quilt, Sollins creates a visual representation of the passage of time and the connections between people, while also exploring the potential for silence to be a powerful subject for art.

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**Suzanne Song** is an artist whose work focuses on creating illusionistic shaped canvases that explore the relationship between color, shape, and space. Her canvases are often flat, but through her masterful use of color and shape, they create the illusion of depth and dimensionality. Song's approach to painting is deeply influenced by her background in graphic design, and she often incorporates geometric shapes and clean lines into her work. She works with a variety of media, including acrylic paint, spray paint, and markers, and experiments with different techniques to create unique textures and effects.

**Taylor Baldwin** is an artist who has established his practice around sculpture, video, and installation. Baldwin's artistic process is characterized by his specific materiality, which is deeply researched and site-specific. His objects are created with a historical context, and their physical and psychological components are closely intertwined. The objects that he creates are designed to embody a productive friction between their physical, psychological, and historical context. Baldwin's practice is focused on creating artworks that sit on the edge of making and unmaking, which barely cling to coherence.

**Theresa Ganz** is a contemporary artist who specializes in collage. She is known for her unique approach to the medium, using it to create intricate and detailed architectural formations that resemble large blueprints. Ganz's work is inspired by the built environment and the urban landscape, and she is interested in exploring the ways in which we interact with and experience the spaces around us. Ganz's collages are incredibly detailed and precise, often featuring a wide variety of textures, patterns, and colors. She uses a variety of materials in her work, including paper, cardboard, fabric, and photographs, which she cuts and layers to create the illusion of depth and dimensionality. One of the most striking aspects of Ganz's work is the way in which she can evoke the feeling of grandeur and scale. Her collages often feature sprawling architectural formations that seem to stretch out into infinity, inviting the viewer to explore and contemplate the space.

#### ABOUT FRED.

**Fred.** is a pop-up gallery project conceptualized by artists Derek G. Larson and Jeff Wallace in April 2023. Our inaugural exhibition, HOMAGE, is currently on display at 145 Plymouth Street in Dumbo, Brooklyn, with plans to showcase the artworks across the United States and Europe.

**Fred.** aspires to foster a growing community of artists and create a memorable experience through our curation, maintaining an accessible vision, and providing a welcoming environment.

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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For a complete PDF of statements and bios for the artists featured in HOMAGE or high-resolution images of works included in the exhibition, please contact Jeff Wallace at 646.239.6732 or [info@fredgallery.com](mailto:info@fredgallery.com).