

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COSMIC STORM – When Galaxy Clusters Collide

With Leslie Ford, Philip Gerstein, Augustus Goertz, Jim Napierala, Bobbie Moline-Kramer and Arlene Santana Thornton.

Concept by Priska Juschka.

Exhibition Dates: March 10 – April 2, 2022

PANEL ON SCULPTURE MODERATED by JONATHAN GOODMAN

with Gianluca Bianchino, Dolores Furtado, Liva Isakson and Harold Wortsman.

PANEL, Q & A and RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 | 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Press Release

Lichtundfire is pleased to present and welcomes all to a Panel On Sculpture moderated by art writer **Jonathan Goodman** followed by Q & A and a Reception. The Panel is concurrent with COSMIC STORM, an exhibition with work in various media that invokes visually and theoretically a conversation about the influence of the Earth's magnetic field and the Earth's as the Space's interdependency that underlines the importance of an equilibrium beyond the Earth's orbit.

The exhibition, originally conceived at a time when there was thought to be a delicate balance still upheld between democratic and autocratic states on this planet, shifted its connotation dramatically in recent weeks and has become contextually more three-dimensional than originally anticipated. The 'world' similar to a three-dimensional chess game, seems to be neither flat nor round but of much greater complexity that shows the intricacies of its structural interwovenness and dependency even more.

Such as with the occurrence of a geomagnetic storm, we experience rapid magnetic field variations that seem to engulf everything beyond the Earth's orbit and all we know of.

A Magnetic Storm is a rare event when either the sun's magnetic field or wind emissions, directly from the sun, interfere with the Earth's magnetosphere.

Similarly, a Cosmic Storm takes place in space between galaxies creating a much vaster, complex oscillation. Gravitational interactions such as when galaxies "collide" have suddenly become a metaphor overnight for the disturbed "equilibrium" of the spheres of influence on this planet and beyond.

The work in this exhibition reflects visually and conceptually on the probability of a physical event while linking our own physical dependency to a much vaster ethereality.

About the Panelists:

JONATHAN GOODMAN is a poet and writer and reviewer detailing new and historical shows for a number of New York magazines: The Brooklyn Rail, WhiteHot, Tussle, Two Coats of Paint, and Arte Fuse. He has also worked as an art reviews editor, and taught for many years contemporary art history and the introduction to art theory. He sees good art writing as essential to the continuing progress of new art. Goodman was born and raised in New York City, and studied English and German at Columbia University in NYC as an undergraduate, and medieval English poetry at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) in Philadelphia, PA where he received a master's degree.

GIANLUCA BIANCHINO is an Italian born Italian American multimedia artist, curator, and arts educator living and working in Northern New Jersey. Inspired by physics and architecture, his work is focused on immersive installations and interactive sculptures that often engage with optics and technology. He holds a BFA in painting from New Jersey City University, and an MFA from Montclair State University focused on sculpture and installation. Bianchino is currently an adjunct professor of art at Montclair State University, William Paterson University and at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. He exhibits regularly throughout the greater New York area as well as internationally. Recent exhibits include: Suzhou Art Center (Suzhou, China), Governor's Island Art Fair, The Painting Center, Chashama, Rooster Gallery, Border Project Space, The Islip Museum in Islip NY, The Hunterdon Museum in Clinton NJ, and solo exhibits at New Jersey City University, Bergen Community College, and Index Art Center, NJ. He has been a Resident Artist at Ramapo College, The Center for New Art at William Paterson University, ESKFF at Mana Contemporary, Gallery Aferro, and Gilbertsville Expressive Movement.

DOLORES FURTADO, born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, lives and works in New York. Her latest solo exhibitions include: "Supernatural", Kingsborough College Museum, Brooklyn (2019), "Lo nube", Vasari Gallery, Buenos Aires (2018) and "Ultimate Nature", duo show with Cecilia Biagini, Clemente Soto Cultural Center, New York City (2017). Recent groups shows include: "Greater New York 2021", Moma PS1, Queens (2021); "Ceramics now", Greenwich House Pottery; "Paper Routes—Women to Watch 2020", National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC, (2020); "Human expectations", Hub Robeson Gallery, Penn State University (2020); "La trama y lo diáfano"(2018), Vasari Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina ; 4th AIM Biennial, Bronx Museum of the Arts (2017); A.I.R. Gallery Biennial, A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn (2017); Epsilon, abstracciones descentradas, MACBA, Museum of Contemporary Art of Buenos Aires (2016); Governors Island Art Fair (2015 and 2016); Arcos de Conexión, Museum of Contemporary Art of Bahía Blanca, Argentina (2014); Una persistente forma de estar en el mundo, Casa de la Cultura del Fondo Nacional de las Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2014); among others. She completed the following residency programs: Greenwich House Pottery Residency Program, NYC, USA (2020); Oak Spring Garden Foundation 2019 Artist in Residence Program, Virginia, USA (2019); 2018 FSP/Jerome Fellowship, Franconia Sculpture Park, Minnesota, USA (2018); Bronx Museum of the Arts AIM Program, Bronx, NY, USA (2017); NYFA Immigrant Artist Program, Brooklyn, NY, USA (2016), a.o.

LIVA ISAKSON LUNDIN was born and lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden and earned her masters degree from the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm 2016. Her artistic practice includes sculpture and drawing. Her sculptures or installations are often site specific, as they are created or finalized in the exhibition space. She is using the physical qualities of industrial materials, like metal, rubber and glass to transform, deform and stabilize each other in intimate constructions of emotion and control. Her work has been exhibited frequently in Sweden, for instance at Moderna Museet, Bonniers Konsthall and Royal Swedish academy of Fine Arts. She has completed a number of public commissions, including a permanent installation for the city theatre in Gothenburg, Sweden, as well as a sculptural commission for the main square in Eslöv, Sweden. She is included in the collections of Moderna Museet in Stockholm amongst others and represented by Wetterling Gallery in Stockholm.

HAROLD WORTSMAN is a sculptor and printmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. He "creates forms that bring to mind archaic cult objects and exude a quiet concentrated strength." (Argauer Zeitung, Switzerland). His work, an edgy mix of freedom and clarity, can be found in public and private collections in the US and Europe as well as such American institutions as The Library of Congress, Yale University, The New York Public Library Print Collection, The New York Historical Society, Smith College, Indiana University's Lilly Library, Brandeis University, The Newark Public Library Special Collections Division, and the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum Print Archive.

About the Artists:

LESLIE FORD's oil pigment stick paintings on panel, *Ball of Confusion*, are constructed of many layers of transparent and opaque paint as a circle contained within the square panel; they represent both infinity and unity in the circle while the square is a symbol of the material or physical world – exploring eternity and time, metaphors of both a physical and spiritual world.

PHILIP GERSTEIN's works, conceived with glass beads & crystal mediums together with oil stick, acrylic, lacquer and other materials, range from minimal to American Color Field to lyrical abstraction. They relate to each other in color, surface and a deeper vibration, emotive and impactful – and aim to create a deeper sensation that incorporates the element of time encouraging the viewer to repeat the experience.

AUGUSTUS GOERTZ's methods are diverse in terms of the painterly process– anything that “makes a mark or stain, considered paint”. They leave always room for improvisation within the organized theme of the series – entwining in different combinations a number of streams of thought. With a general effort to understand the meaning of life, his work visually incorporates topographical views, built-up surfaces or spacial constellations that reach beyond the known universe and the physical realm as we know it.

JIM NAPIERALA's *Angels* series, with watercolor and enamel on panel, acts as intermediary between the temporal and the transcendent, as intercessors between thought and act, between the material and the ethereal. His works conjure the idea of angels as intermediaries between these realms – art transcending its own materiality to become an experience of the spirit.

BOBBIE MOLINE-KRAMER's multi-faceted and multi-layered mixed media work hovers conceptually between our tangible world and what lies beneath and beyond it. Spiritual and deeply invested in the idea of the connection of the physical human existence with a celestial body and the overall universe, Moline-Kramer's work reveals the dependency and connectivity with a greater spacial and spiritual entity that empowers all earthly creatures alike.

ARLENE SANTANA THORNTON's paintings range from formal to lyrical abstraction and to poetic minimalism with carefully crafted, delicately layered surfaces; they are often and deeply inspired by nature and by the human condition and seem to reach far beyond the experience of the Earth's sphere and into the realm of an universal spirituality and a panphilosophy.

For additional information, images, events and to arrange an appointment, please contact Priska Juschka at 917.675.7835, info@lichtundfire.com

About Lichtundfire:

LICHTUNDFIRE was established in 2015, with a visual program emphasizing on nonrepresentational, conceptual, and abstract art; especially minimal, color field, geometrical, straight edge, abstract expressionist painting, lyrical abstraction, and process work in all media, as well as abstracted representation.

By its exhibitions, Lichtundfire's program is dedicated to developing and nurturing an active, engaged, progressive, and emancipated art community that addresses cultural and social realities as expressed through visual arts.

Beyond its carefully curated visual program, Lichtundfire seeks to actively connect with other parts of the creative community, especially in the field of poetry, literature, philosophy and Critical Theory.

Lichtundfire Info:

Address: 175 Rivington Street (between Clinton & Attorney) New York, New York 10002

Subway Stop: F/M or J/Z to Delancey & Essex Streets

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 6 PM, or by appointment

Website: lichtundfire.com Tel: (917) 675-7835 Email: info@lichtundfire.com

Instagram: [@lichtundfire](https://www.instagram.com/lichtundfire) and hashtag: [#lichtundfire](https://www.instagram.com/lichtundfire)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lichtundfire>

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