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SURVEY EXHIBITION *ON TARGET* BY ARTIST GARY LANG OPENS AT THE FORMER BROAD FOUNDATION BUILDING IN LOS ANGELES

Organized by curator Paul Schimmel and on view from February 14 to 19, 2023, the show presents over 30 works from 1987 to present, including the artist's iconic large-scale circle paintings and never-before-seen digital works.



Image © Loren Skylar Clark Kircher

Los Angeles, CA – A major survey of works by LA-based artist Gary Lang opens at the former Broad Foundation building, designed by Frederick Fischer and Partners, bringing together nearly four decades of the artist's practice. Titled *On Target* and spanning three floors, the exhibition is organized by curator Paul Schimmel and offers a comprehensive investigation into Lang's practice as it relates to perception, light and space, and color theory. Consisting of over 30 works across paintings, works on paper, and never-before-seen digital works, *On Target* is on view during Frieze Week LA from February 14 to 19, 2023.

The exhibition spotlights Lang's iconic concentric circle paintings, rooted in color theories developed in the early 19th century by Michel Eugène Chevreul. These "targets" became a recurring motif in Lang's practice as he embraced optically oriented paintings that recall the hallucinatory aspects and dissidence of psychedelics. The artist, best known for his pioneering circular format and simultaneous contrast of colors on the canvas, makes meticulous decisions on preliminary color and sequencing in order to "minimize distraction and the burden of thinking while applying the paint", protecting the meditative process of creation. Lang has previously noted that he does not see the painting until it's complete due to the optically evolving color interactions. The circles utilize an experiential nature as well as unlikely and provocative color choices, allowing viewers to embrace the work through its transcendental qualities. The hypnotic energy emitted from Lang's circles begin with his earliest paintings and evolve to his most recent digital works today. Paul Schimmel comments, "*This show represents a reflection of Gary's spirituality, especially as it relates to Orphism and the theosophists. The resulting experience is near mystical, reflecting a strong relationship to those theosophists who perceived spiritual manifestations and thought forms as colors in the world around us.*"

Lang's creative process includes lightly scoring the canvas, intuitively using different widths starting from the edge and moving towards the center. The rings are then freely painted, with distinct color choices and organic materials that push the viewer to continually adjust focus. The resulting works reflect a dissidence released by Lang during the creation process. As a perceptual artist with direct connection to and influences by Light and Space artists, Lang tied in phenomenological and optical qualities within his work. Developing in Los Angeles in response to Minimalism, the Light and Space movement focused on perception, experience, and sensory phenomena through materials and their surroundings. Lang developed friendships with notable Light and Space artists such as Larry Bell, Mary Corse, James Turrell, and De Wain Valentine visiting each other's studios in the late 1970s. These friendships influenced Lang's practice, pushing forward the painterly aspects of light and space in combination with aspects of op art and minimalism to facilitate a unique manner of creating work. Further influences on Lang's work include the Finish Fetish movement, a new emergence from Light and Space with a direct focus on materials, which Lang utilized to further the optical effects and minimalistic qualities present in his circle paintings.

Resonating also with artists of the previous generation, including Sol LeWitt and Frank Stella, Lang continued to develop works during the early 1990s in New York City and returned to Los Angeles in early 2001 amid LA's embrace of "Zen" influences. Lang's practice reflected this influence, maintaining a "Zen" quality during the process of creation. Today, Lang continues to adapt and evolve his practice, while maintaining its artistic roots in perception, color, and experience. Gary Lang comments, *"I was painting multi color dots ascending fields of colored horizontal bands while attending high school, attaching long sheets of paper together to make spaces approximating a symbolic infinity. At the time I hadn't thought of them as circles. Nor did I imagine I was an artist. I was harvesting a sense of peace and calm while time traveling. More than 5 decades later, I am compelled circling, ascending, amassing energy and traveling."*

NOTES TO EDITORS

For interviews and image requests, please contact ttrauner@fitzandco.com.

About Gary Lang

Gary Lang (b. 1950, Los Angeles, CA; lives in Ojai, CA) was raised in Los Angeles where, as a high school student, he attended the prestigious Chouinard Art Institute on scholarship. Lang was recruited as one of a handful of students from Chouinard to join the inaugural class of students at the California Institute of the Arts, where he earned his B.F.A. Lang earned his M.F.A at Yale University, where he was commissioned to produce a work partially paid for by the National Endowment for the Arts. During this time, Lang gained many peers who would later influence his artistic journey, including David Salle and Eric Fischl. After completing his M.F.A, Lang accepted a Fulbright/Hayes Travel Grant and lived in Barcelona, Spain from 1974-1975. Briefly moving to New York City until 1979, Lang then returned to Los Angeles. Upon his return, Lang built relationships with a number of Light and Space artists who would become both friends and influences on his practice. Lang moved to New York City in the early 1984 in the midst of the city's artistic boom to further pursue and develop his artistic practice alongside older generations of artists such as Sol LeWitt and Frank Stella. Upon Lang's return to Los Angeles in early 2001, a "Zen" influence was taking hold of the city and was reflected in Lang's meditative practice for creating his circles, which he has since continued to evolve.

Follow the artist on [@garylangart](https://www.instagram.com/garylangart).

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