

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Robert Burnier

Song Cycle

October 21 - November 24, 2021

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 21st, 5-8pm

No appointment necessary/free and open to the public

Before the wretched Dionysian night shone a poet of the crumbling concrete, a thumper of the Book who threw away the text and made viscera sing in chromatic harmony and Metaxa-soaked syncopation. Then out of deepest longing emerged a polar sun circling a river of metallic oxides with the night overhead.

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present *Song Cycle*, a solo exhibition by Chicago, IL-based artist Robert Burnier.

About this new body of work Burnier writes:

Song Cycle is made in reference to a summer of deep listening to Marvin Gaye's musical oeuvre, studying its complex histories and manifestations. A freedom and beauty of expression; a quest to bring a unity to a divided body and mind, or their near inversion.

The folded and compressed forms of the works in this exhibition retain a history of their own becoming -- the colors in ancient African, Mediterranean and Mesopotamian objects yield inspiration. But the work has its demands, as do I, a communion of what is within and without, to understand this sovereignty, this being. For the past might be as different from now as we expect of the future, and we are the arch on the shifting ground between.



Robert Burnier, *Kiam Mi Ne Povas*, 2021, acrylic on aluminum, 11 x 8 x 3 in. (27.9 x 20.3 x 7.6 cm)

Presented in the main gallery, *Song Cycle* features ten new wall sculptures. Made of skillfully manipulated metal sheets, rhythm and meter synthetically bond with color and form in seemingly weightless forms tumbling across open space. There is an unmistakable lyricism to his works, an innate vocabulary of carefully crimped edges and billowy folds that harness both mystery and recognition.

Burnier's unique process creates space for contemplation and metaphor. Starting with a flat plane, the metal that comprises each work begins with a defined linearity. Through a process of intuitive bending works *become* themselves as the void between spaces is compressed and folded onto itself. Like revolutions of a spinning record, the earliest marks may bend back to meet the last, as the past and present mingle throughout Robert Burnier's *Song Cycle*.

About Robert Burnier

(American, b. 1969) lives and works in Chicago. He received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute in painting and drawing in 2016. He also holds a BS in Computer Science from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (1991). Recent group exhibitions include *Jenny from the Color Block*, curated by Eric Ruschman, Art Academy of Cincinnati, OH (2016); *Imaginary Landscapes*, curated by Allison Glenn, Chicago Urban Art Society, Chicago, IL (2015); *Ghost Nature*, curated by Caroline Picard, at Gallery 400, Chicago, IL and La Box, Bourges, France (2014); and *The Chicago Effect: Redefining the Middle* at the Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL (2014). His work is currently on view in a sudden and peculiar pleasure, a feeling of protection, curated by Matt Morris, at Lovey Town, Chicago, IL. Independent Curators International commissioned a series of works that were presented at NADA Miami (2014) and NADA New York (2015) respectively. His work has been exhibited in solo and curated presentations at art fairs in Chicago, Miami, New York, Mexico City, and Copenhagen. He is included in numerous public and private collections.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. The *New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and The *Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.