

• 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



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)

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.

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

Robert Burnier (American, b. 1969) is an artist who lives and works in Chicago. He received his M.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute in Painting and Drawing in 2016. He also holds a B.S. in Computer Science from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (1991). Exhibitions include *Rob Barnard*, *Robert Burnier & Julian Stair*, at Corvi-Mora Gallery (London), *Song Cycle*, at David B. Smith Gallery (Denver, CO), *Temple*, at Andrew Rafacz Gallery (Chicago, IL), *Black Tibernius* at the Chicago Riverwalk, *Of No Particular King*, at Arts Club of Chicago (Chicago, IL), *Primary*, at Korn Gallery, Drew University, (New Jersey), *Lip To My Ear*, at Vacation Gallery (New York, NY), *Objectified*, at Trestle Gallery (Brooklyn, NY), *So That Justice Should be Tyrant*, at Andrew Rafacz Gallery (Chicago, IL), *Ghost Nature*, curated by Caroline Picard, at Gallery 400 (Chicago, IL) and La Box (Bourges, France), *The Chicago Effect: Redefining the Middle*, at the Hyde Park Art Center (Chicago, IL), *Imaginary Landscapes*, curated by Allison Glenn, at Chicago Urban Art Society, and *Jenny From the Color Block*, at the Cincinnati Art Academy (Cincinnati, OH). Upcoming solo exhibitions include Massey Klein Gallery, New York City and Andrew Rafacz, Chicago. His work has been exhibited at Frieze, London 2021 and other art fairs in Miami, New York, Chicago, Dallas and Copenhagen, Denmark. He has served on the boards of several arts organizations, including Heaven Gallery, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, and Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Chicago.

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 catalogs and editions.