

FORM+CONTENT GALLERY

For immediate release

ellipse

What

PAINTING | SCULPTURE | VIDEO
by JIM DRYDEN

When

April 26 – June 2, 2018
Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday 12:00 – 6:00 pm and by appointment
Free and open to the public

Public Reception

Saturday April 28th, 28th, 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Free and open to the public

Where

Form+Content Gallery
Whitney Square Building
210 North 2nd Street, Suite 104
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Metered street parking

Information

formandcontent@gmail.com
<http://www.formandcontent.org>
612/436-1151

Description

Form+Content Gallery presents *ellipse*, painting | sculpture | video by Jim Dryden. This exhibition marks the next step in a progression of work, represented by a series of solo exhibitions: **Set Theory**, **Gravity**, **Continuum** and now **ellipse**, in Jim Dryden's exploration of the relationships between painting, sculpture, and now, video and the many ways in which a singular, abstract shape, the ellipse, might function as a mode of personal and political communication.



Jim Dryden, *Cairn 1-2 (studies)* enamel on composite, 84 x 16 x 12 in

Originally inspired by mathematician Georg Cantor's revolutionary treatise *Set Theory*, which describes, often through the use of Venn diagrams, how groups of things are defined and relate to one another. These overlapping circles and ovals seemed a perfect visual metaphor to express Dryden's thoughts and describe his own world in an abstract visual form.

Dryden realized that a simple shape, the ellipse, could be employed to express an endless range of ideas. At times, it might represent our world in microcosm: the path of an electron; blood cells jostling together; a deadly bacteria; a life-saving mold; a fragile egg. At other times, it might represent our world in macrocosm: the orbit of a moon or planet; the circumference of an entire galaxy.

Always, the shape of a single musical note.

These paintings, though successful, suggested a further form of expression. Their quality of depth and spatial relationship led the artist to explore these shapes and ideas in three-dimension. This manifested in a series of sculptures in stainless steel, aluminum, silver, and ebony that maintain their form through weight and balance.

As the next step in this continuum, Dryden is currently assembling kinetic sculptures, the movement of which is captured by projection and recorded as video. This current multimedia work transports the originally painted ellipse and the sleek sculptural ellipse into a new realm of understanding, meaning, and possibility. The paintings confront viewers with a proposition, the sculptures invite viewers into an examination of materiality and form, and the new, amorphous multimedia work entices viewers to embrace a sensory visual/auditory/time-lapse experience.



Jim Dryden, *Cairn 3* (detail) enamel on composite, 84 x 16 x 12 in.

Artist Biography

Jim Dryden was born in Bismarck, North Dakota and completed his BFA degree in painting at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. His work has been shown in many solo and group exhibitions and is included in the permanent collections of Carleton College, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Walker Art Center and the Weisman Art Museum. He is a founding member of Form + Content Gallery and his studio is at the Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art in Minneapolis.

Press Images

For high-res images:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dllthdjgikrszhd/AAB3vo9e2tko1AQsV_LIUrr0a?dl=0

or contact gallery at: formandcontent@gmail.com

00-ellipse

Jim Dryden

Cairn 1-2 (studies)

enamel on composite, 84 x 16 x 12 in.

000-ellipse

Jim Dryden

Cairn 3 (detail)

enamel on composite, 84 x 16 x 12 in.

01-ellipse

Jim Dryden

Cairn 5

Stainless steel, 84 x 16 x 12 in.

02-ellipse

Jim Dryden

Cairn 5 (detail)

Stainless steel, 84 x 16 x 12 in.

03-ellipse

Jim Dryden

video still

04-ellipse

Jim Dryden

postcard image

ellipse video clip: <https://youtu.be/DMn7A8AmEe4>

Mission Statement

Form+Content Gallery nurtures diverse artistic practice and thoughtful dialogue. We value art as a catalyst for critical thinking. We value integrity and the artistic process. We aspire to link personal expression to broader social contexts. Form+Content Gallery is dedicated to moving the definitions and practice of culture forward in new and lively ways.