

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

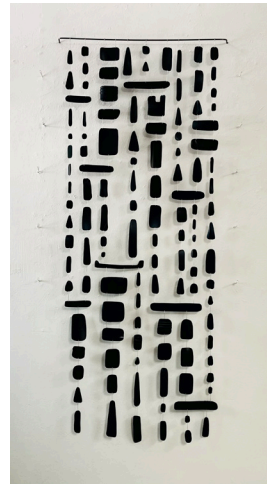
Matt Magee

Black and White

28 February 2025 – 17 May 2025

OPENING RECEPTION

28 February 2025 from 5 to 7 PM



Carbon, 2024, Matt Magee. Plastic detergent bottles, wire, steel rod
48 x 19 in.

(Santa Fe, NM) Conceptual artist makes sculptures from discarded plastic laundry detergent bottles to discuss the Southwest's susceptibility to climate change.

(February 2025) Contemporary artist Matt Magee (b. 1961, Paris) has been experimenting with abstract and conceptual art practices for forty years. He is best known for his minimal abstract geometric paintings, sculptures, and prints that explore language symbolically with an emphasis on repetition and nods to art historical precedents. In *Black and White*, Magee presents monochromatic lithographs, photogravures, etchings, and hanging wall sculptures pulled from Tamarind Institute, Woolworth Publications, Manneken Press, Obee Editions, and the artist's studio. In these works, Magee turns scenes, like a decaying church ceiling in Mobile, Alabama, and civilization's systems, like industrial agriculture, into works of art that ask what the limits of language are. These works trace a portion of Magee's prodigious artistic output since 2019 and record his travels across the US working with people in the printmaking ecosystem. **The exhibition opens with a reception at Zane Bennett Contemporary Art on February 28 from 5 to 7 PM on the gallery's ground floor.**

The latest works in this exhibition, *Carbon* and *Glacier 2*, are wall-hanging sculptures made of plastic detergent bottles, wire, and steel rods. As the titles suggest, **these grid-like arrays represent two sides of the climate crisis dialogue.** On the one hand, we have *Carbon*. As an element, carbon is the largest component of fossil fuels, the burning of which is responsible for our current climate crisis. On the other hand, we have *Glacier 2*, a sculpture whose title and color evoke Earth's ice caps that are melting as a result of climate change — But the climate crisis is not as black and white as it seems. There are other factors at play, like our disposable consumer culture. These sculptures are made from plastic detergent bottles that Magee has sourced from laundromats in Phoenix, AZ. There are millions of these bottles and similar single use containers produced, consumed, and disposed of everyday. Phoenix, with its limited water supply and already record-breaking heat waves, represents one of several major metropolitan areas in the Southwest that will be among the first to experience the negative effects of climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels and a disposable, non-biodegradable consumer culture.

The prints in this exhibition span a 5-year period and were produced with numerous print houses across the US, including Tamarind Institute one of the premier fine art lithography studios in the country. Magee's most recent print, *Fascimile*, was created in collaboration with a Tamarind student printer and features a black-and-white grid of rectangular shapes. This array of rectangles is not only reminiscent of *Glacier 2* and *Carbon*'s composition, it also resembles a voting ballot, which may be the most powerful weapon the next generation has to fight the climate crisis.

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For press or image inquiries, please contact Spencer Linford at spencer@zanebennettgallery.com.

Biography

Matt Magee is an American contemporary artist best known for his minimal geometric paintings, sculptures, prints, assemblages, murals, and photographs. Born in Paris in 1961, he currently lives and works in Phoenix, Arizona.

Over a four-decade career, Magee has experimented widely with abstract and conceptual art practices. His compositions draw inspiration from personal history, numerology, and language. He crafts his sculptures and collages using found and collected media. In his paintings and prints, he explores language through abstraction, repetition, reiteration, and the occasional tip of the hat to art historical precedents. His visual language relates to early hard-edge abstraction and finds inspiration in contemporary scientific, ecological, and technological ideas.

Magee is represented by Richard Levy Gallery in Albuquerque, NM; PazdaButler Gallery in Houston, Texas; Emma Hill Gallery in London; David Hall Fine Art in Wellesley, MA; and Mission Projects in Chicago. His work has been internationally exhibited and collected.

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CV, partial

M.F.A. Pratt Institute Brooklyn, New York 1986
B.A. Trinity University San Antonio, Texas 1983
Internship. Peggy Guggenheim Collection Venice, Italy 1983
Internship. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum New York 1982
Internship. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum New York 1981
Camden Arts Centre Ceramics workshops London, UK 1970-71

AWARDS

Tamarind Institute Guest artist September 2024
Jackalope Editions Printmaking residency Knoxville, TN August 2024
Torschlusspanik Studios Printmaking residency Mexico City July 2024
Flatbed Press Printmaking residency Austin, TX June 2024
Manneken Press Three editions published Bloomington, IL March 2024
Obee Editions Printmaking residency Black Mountain, NC December 2023
The Artist's Eye Moderated by George Shackelford Kimbell Art Museum Ft Worth, TX
March 25, 2023
Michael Woolworth Publications Printmaking residency Paris, France June 2022
Planthouse Gallery 'Rainbow Fragment Flag' and 'HOPE' prints published New York 2021
Westport Cultural Council and Westport Land Conservation Trust residency Westport, MA July 2021
Manneken Press Three editions published Bloomington, IL 2021
Print Editions 'Abecedarium' published, a suite of 7 prints London March 2021
Planthouse Gallery 'Fragment Flag' published Lower East Side Print Shop New York 2020
Michael Woolworth Publications Printmaking residency Paris, France January 2020
Michael Woolworth Publications Printmaking residency Paris, France July 2019
4th of July Fragment Flag Planthouse Gallery, New York July 2019
Sculpture Commission January 2019 JP Morgan Chase & Co. Tempe, Arizona
Paper Variables residency January 2019 Dieu Donne Brooklyn, NY
Deb Chaney Editions Four editions published New York, Paris, La Force 2018
Arlene and Mort Scult Award 2017 Phoenix Art Museum
Tamarind Institute residency Albuquerque, NM March 2016
Josef and Anni Albers Foundation residency Bethany, CT 2015
Tamarind Institute residency Albuquerque, NM February 2013
The Photo Review Competition issue Juried by Toby Jurovics 2007
Josef and Anni Albers Foundation residency Bethany, CT 2007
Board of Trustees Award Silvermine Arts Center New Canaan, CT 2006
New York Foundation for the Arts painting grant 2002
Pollock-Krasner Foundation painting grant 1991
Atlantic Center for the Arts residency with artist James Surls Florida 1985

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CV, partial cont.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Matt Magee: Black and White Zane Bennett Contemporary Art Santa Fe, NM
- 2024 Paradigms: Matt Magee at Manneken Press ARTSY
Matt Magee: Inventory Planthouse New York
Signs & Signals Etherton Gallery Tucson, AZ
- 2023 Matt Magee: Cutouts and Cut-offs The Mission Projects Chicago, IL
On Memory and Coding Richard Levy Gallery Albuquerque, NM
- 2022 It's All About You Standard Space Sharon, CT
Matt Magee: Analog Bookstein Projects New York
- 2021 Twenty Two Hundred ARTSY online show hosted by Richard Levy Gallery Nov
17 - December 17
Abecedarium Emma Hill Eagle Gallery Cabinet Room London, UK
Animal Vegetable Mineral Photo Composites 1980-2005 PazdaButler Gallery
Houston
Matt Magee: On Language and Coding Curated by Cece Cole Mountain Shadows
Paradise Valley, AZ
Zane Bennett X Radius Books Matt Magee Satellite Show: Prints from
Woolworth Publications Santa Fe, NM
Matt Magee: Random Order Zane Bennett Contemporary Art Santa Fe, NM
- 2019 Matt Magee Recent Paintings and Works on Paper Planthouse New York
Matt Magee inde/jacobs Marfa, TX
Matt Magee: Numerologies Standard Space Sharon, CT
Matt Magee: Language and Sequence Etherton Gallery Tucson, AZ
Jennifer Kobylarz and Matt Magee: If Time was a Place Richard Levy Gallery,
Albuquerque
Focus on Matt Magee Wilson Stephens and Jones London, UK
- 2018 TYPOLOGIES John Molloy Gallery, New York
Wall. Text. Mural for Phoenix Art Museum Phoenix, AZ
Matt Magee *>][<'."-.}*| Phoenix Art Museum Phoenix, AZ
- 2017 Matt Magee: formUlate David Hall Fine Art Wellesley, MA
Signs The Photographs of Matt Magee Darren Winston Bookseller Sharon, CT
Matt Magee: Prints Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston
Wall of Text Everybody Gallery Tucson, Arizona
Matt Magee: Photographs 1981-2016 Shortcut Gallery, Phoenix
Glen Hanson and Matt Magee Recent Work inde/jacobs Marfa, TX
- 2016 On Language & Marking Time Eagle Gallery EMH Arts, London
Memory and Reflection Mural for Tucson Museum of Art Tucson, AZ
Grapheme 3 Mural for ArtEXPO, Chicago
Materiality The Mission Projects Chicago

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CV, partial cont.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS cont.

- Wall Grapheme 1 Mural for Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque
- prima materia Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston
- Matt Magee: How the West was Won Darren Winston Bookseller Sharon, CT
- Seven: A Survey of Paintings by Matt Magee Richard Levy Gallery, Albuquerque
- 2015 Paintings & Textcavations: New Work by Matt Magee
John Molloy Gallery, New York
- matt magee marfa inde/jacobs Marfa, TX
- 2014 Recent Paintings and Sculptures James Kelly Contemporary, Santa Fe
- 2013 Circa 1994 Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston
- 2011 Paintings Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston
- 2010 New Paintings Knoedler Project Space, New York
- 2009 Ideograms Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston
- 2008 Thought Forms Eight Modern, Santa Fe
Heskin Contemporary New York
- 2007 River Gallery Narrowsburg, New York
- 2000 Bill Maynes Gallery New York
- 1997 Bill Maynes Gallery New York
- 1995 Gerald Peters Gallery Dallas
- 1990 Berland Hall Gallery New York

For Magee's comprehensive CV, please email spencer@zanebennettgallery.com.

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