

# TOM WUDL

*beginningless inexhaustible empty*

8 OCTOBER – 7 NOVEMBER 2015 • Reception for the artist: Thursday, 8 October, 6-8 pm



*Radiance of Sublime Reality Filling the Cosmos without End, 2015*  
 acrylic, 22 karat gold, gum arabic, pencil and gouache on rice paper over wood panel  
 60 x 72 in. (152.4 x 182.9 cm); Framed: 63 1/4 x 75 1/4 x 3 1/2 in. (160.7 x 191.1 x 8.9 cm)

**Venice, CA --** L.A. Louver is pleased to present *Beginningless Inexhaustible Empty*, an exhibition of recent works by L.A.-based artist Tom Wudl.

Over the past decade, Wudl has taken inspiration from the revered Buddhist teaching, the *Avatamsaka Sutra* (*The Flower Ornament Scripture*), to create an ongoing series of painstakingly detailed paintings, drawings and prints in response to the text’s evocative and profound literary descriptions. Featured among the 12 works in the exhibition *Radiance of Sublime Reality Filling the Cosmos without End*, which measures 60 x 72 inches (152.4 x 182.9 cm.), is the largest work Wudl has created on the subject to date. Although larger in scale, the painting is imbued with the same intensity of detail and complexity inherent in all of the works on view.

Considered one of “the most colorful and dramatic rehearsals of Buddhist teachings,” the sutra’s primary purpose is to encourage meditation. It illustrates the world as it appears to the Buddha, where all things are interconnected and interdependent within a cosmos of infinite realms. Just as the sutra implicates the interdependency of all things, each work of art is interconnected and may be viewed as fragments that inform the collective whole; every meticulous intricacy speaks to the wonderment and reverie demonstrated in the writings.



detail of *Radiance of Sublime Reality Filling the Cosmos without End, 2015*



*Treasury of the Light of Knowledge*, 2014  
pencil, gouache, 22k gold powder and gum arabic on vellum  
7 3/4 x 9 3/4 in. (19.7 x 24.8 cm)

“The ground was solid and firm, made of diamond, adorned with exquisite jewel discs and myriad precious flowers, with pure clear crystals. The finest jewels appeared spontaneously, raining inexhaustible quantities of gems and beautiful flowers all over the earth. By the Buddha’s spiritual power, he caused all the adornments of this enlightenment site to be reflected therein.” Cleary, Thomas. *The Flower Ornament Scripture (A Translation of the Avatamsaka Sutra)*. p.55

Although inspired by Buddhist teachings, the works themselves are not intended to be sacred icons. However, Wudl follows the long tradition of artists, such as Caspar David Friedrich, Vincent Van Gogh, Piet Mondrian, Kazimir Malevich and Agnes Martin, who merge aesthetics and mysticism by employing formal conventions to visually represent that which defies verbal description.

For detailed information on the works, visit the online exhibition guide: [www.lalouver.com/wudl2015](http://www.lalouver.com/wudl2015)

**Tom Wudl** immigrated to the United States from Cochabamba, Bolivia in 1958. Beginning life in a new country at age ten, Wudl already knew he wanted to become a painter. He earned a BFA from the Chouinard Art Institute, Los Angeles, but gained most of his skills and insight through his independent study of late Medieval and early Renaissance paintings, and travels to the art centers of Europe. Wudl has balanced his painting with a long career teaching art. He has held positions at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena; UCLA; UC Irvine; UC Santa Barbara; Claremont College; and Otis College of Art and Design, in addition to an extensive private teaching practice.

Wudl has exhibited widely in museums and galleries throughout the United States and abroad, including *Documenta V*, Kassel (1972); Sezon Museum of Art, Tokyo, and Nagoya City Museum in Japan; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Art; Pasadena Art Museum; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. L.A. Louver has represented Tom Wudl since 1980.

## ARTIST CONVERSATION

**Thursday, 22 October 2015, 7pm**

Join us for an artist conversation with Tom Wudl and Buddhist scholar Dale S. Wright.

The event is free, but reservations are required.

RSVP to (310) 822-4955 or [rsvp@lalouver.com](mailto:rsvp@lalouver.com)

Concurrently on view at L.A. Louver: 8 October – 7 November 2015

First floor – Charles Garabedian: *Sacrifice for the Fleet* / New large-scale paintings and drawings

Skyroom – Deborah Butterfield / New bronze sculpture

For more information and visuals, please contact Christina Carlos, L.A. Louver, 45 North Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA, USA

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Gallery hours: Tues - Sat / 10am - 6pm; Validated parking available

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