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VENICE, CALIFORNIA
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THOM MAYNE

SHAPING ACCIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2024

Exhibition dates:

18 September - 26 October 2024

Opening reception:

Wednesday, 18 September 2024, 6 - 8 p.m.

Media Contact:

Darius Sabbaghzadeh
darius@hellonthirdeye.com
Kyle Hinton
kyle@hellonthirdeye.com

Gallery hours

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

45 N Venice Blvd
Venice CA 90291
info@lalouper.com
310 822 4955
lalouper.com



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Thom Mayne, *XCD_240221-143931_14131387-BS*, 2024, UV ink on aluminum, 60 x 74 in. (152.4 x 188 cm), each panel: 60 x 36 in. (152.4 x 91.4 cm)

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is proud to present the debut American exhibition of a new body of work by Los Angeles-based architect and artist Thom Mayne. Investigating the philosophical intersections of impermanence and materiality, Mayne demonstrates how technology – at the frontiers of computer language and object-creation – can reframe and readdress timeless questions at the essence of artmaking.

Each artwork in *Shaping Accident* begins with a computer algorithm, which assists the translation of concepts into physical forms that fuse drawing, sculpture and printing. Mayne’s process, although highly technological, is informed by the theoretical laws and currents of the natural world, primarily selection, iteration and evolution. The artist begins by electing the initial forms (known as “primitives”) as the foundational DNA for generating a wide variety of output. These primitives are then subjected to complex digital scripting, a process directed by Mayne that sets instructions for the software to negotiate various tasks such as rotation, stacking, transparency and opacity.

Even within highly stipulated parameters, a multitude of images are produced and developed through a potentially limitless loop of coding, analysis and decision-making. This aspect of Mayne’s practice provokes contemplation of the role of chance, choice and artist control in the creative process.

Mayne’s compositions are then realized through an advanced 3-D printer that deposits manifold layers of UV ink on a surface to create compositions of infinitesimal linear strata, layered to construct an elevated texture across the surface of aluminum, wood or paper panels. This rarified printing technique allows Mayne to achieve precision, while retaining a grain that harkens back to his experimental artworks of the 1980s that incorporated rust, pigment, gold leaf and other unstable materials that could change over time.



Thom Mayne
XCD_240325-210955_2364-RY, 2024
UV ink on aluminum
48 x 48 in. (121.9 x 121.9 cm)



Thom Mayne
Photo: Kurt Iswarienko

Works are oriented within rectangular or square confines, which signal a traditional picture plane and the physicality of painting. Punctuated by exclamations of translucent washes and dynamic parabolic embellishments, the resulting effect is a rich, futuristic web of explosive color and harmonizing forms.

This exhibition marks an important developmental stage in Mayne's creative and fine art practice. Having established clear rules for this new medium – including a rectilinear frame, the use of organic and inorganic materials, and a determined, infinitely iterative process – Mayne as artist continues to push against his own parameters without breaking them.

About the artist

Thom Mayne's distinguished career is marked by significant exhibitions and inclusion in prestigious institutional collections. Notable solo exhibitions include those at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Walker Arts Centre, Minneapolis, MN; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA); and the Museo Franz Mayer, Mexico City. Key collections holding Mayne's works are the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA); the Canadian Centre for Architecture; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK; the University of Houston Gerald D Hines College of Architecture and Design; the Montreal Museum of Decorative Arts, Montreal, Canada; and the Tchoban Foundation Museum for Architectural Drawing, Berlin, Germany.

Born in Waterbury, Connecticut and raised in Gary, Indiana, Mayne completed his BA in Architecture at the University of Southern California in 1968, and he received Master of Architecture from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design in 1978. The founding partner of Morphosis, an interdisciplinary and collective architecture and planning practice established in 1972, Mayne's distinguished honors include the Pritzker Prize (2005) and the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal (2013). He served on the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities from 2009–2016. In 1972, he cofounded the Southern California Institute of Architecture, where he continues to lead the NOW Institute, a graduate-level thinktank for urban sustainability and resilience. Mayne has held teaching positions at Columbia, Yale, Harvard, the Bartlett School of Architecture in London, and University of Pennsylvania. Recent publications include *Strange Networks* (2020, Rizzoli), a monograph highlighting his exploration of combinatorial systems, and *M3* (2023, Rizzoli), a survey of fifty years of models at Morphosis. This investigation continues at Stray Dog Café, Mayne's personal art and research space at Morphosis, where he leads a team of young designers and students on research projects, the creation of artworks, and the development of publications that document their creative output.