



My work sits in a queer space between contemporary art and decorative art, courting and resisting both worlds simultaneously.

--Chris Bogia

Donzella is excited to present at Salon Art + Design fair Chris Bogia's *Mandala – Sun*, a joyful and meticulously handcrafted 7-foot-wide recreation of the sun from *The Sun, The City* (2021).

Mandala – Sun is exclusively available at Donzella in a variable edition of 15 (each edition can be specified to color and scale). Initially conceived as two sculptural companion pieces, *The Sun, The City* exhibited at 125 Maiden Lane from March 1st, 2021 – October 10th, 2021, as part of Time Equities' Art-in-Buildings program.

Influenced by Bogia's ongoing interest in interior design and the decorative arts, a unique visual and tactile language is at play in *Mandala – Sun*. Utilizing materials more commonly associated with interior design and craft—humble yarn and gleaming lacquer—Bogia celebrates the comfort of domestic space and elevates craft on par with art. Unabashedly utopian, abstract yellow-gold stemmed flowers spring from its center. Lacquered pale tangerine raindrops, each filled with an abstract orange flower and pale pastiche raindrop, lie between the stemmed flowers. Still smaller tangerine raindrops radiate from the sun's center. Equally symmetrical are the pops of green and turquoise and petal-soft pink. The rich and eye-pleasing pattern of simple shapes and vivid colors create a sense of limitless joy. Contributing to this visual feast of abstraction and color is texture. Lustrous grass-cloth wallpaper. Smooth and precise layers of lacquer. Strand after strand of yarn laid down with joyful exactitude. The gestalt of the *Mandala – Sun*: wondrous abundance and exuberant equilibrium.

The *New York Times* critic Holland Cotter called the Pattern and Decoration movement, which originated in the early 70s, “the last genuine art movement of the twentieth century.” After falling out of favor in the mid-80s, P & D is resurging, inspiring a new generation of artists.

In 2018, *Surface/Depth: The Decorative after Miriam Schapiro* exhibited at MAD, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY. In 2019 there were a total of four major exhibitions from California to Europe, including: *With Pleasure: Pattern and Decoration in American Art, 1972-1985*, at MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA.

Bogia is in dialogue with, and advances, the aesthetic, cultural, and political concerns of P & D. Bogia's use of interior design strategies and his formal considerations of domestic arts and crafts illuminate his direction: the explorations of the intersections of personal



utopian spaces and art. Aware of the fragility and flaws located in utopian spaces, he aspires to make fragments of perfect fantasy domestic interiors, to locate the tension and balance. His abstract visual language aims for universal seduction.

Perhaps even more important is Bogia's use of texture, how the very surfaces of his art hold meaning. "The textures—yarn, veneer, lacquer, ceramics, jute carpet—they play off one another in familiar ways, suggesting high-end design, hand-made folksiness, and the surfaces in our homes. They are a way to anchor the work in the domestic and give the viewer that seductive vibe of something beautiful and familiar—or perhaps aspirational."

Mandala – Sun rejoices the beauty, comfort, and pleasure located in a utopian domestic space. It is beautiful, generous, happy, and hopeful, yes, *hopeful*, art.

Chris Bogia received his MFA from Yale University and his BA from New York University. Bogia was a recipient of the Jackson Pollock – Lee Krasner Foundation Grant; a Queens Council for the Arts, New Works Grant; as well as a Rema Hort Mann Foundation Artist Community Engagement Grant. He was an artist in residence at the Queens Museum Studio Program from 2017-2018. Recent exhibitions include Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, CA; Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia, PA; The Bureau of General Services: Queer Division, Bravin Lee, Kate Werble, SPRING/BREAK Art Show, and the New Museum, New York, New York, Mrs., Maspeth, and Ortega y Gasset, Brooklyn, NY. Bogia is the co-founder of Fire Island Artist Residency, the world's first LGBTQ artist residency.

Essay by Claudia Summers