

## PRESS RELEASE

**Leonardo Drew: Cycles**

From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation

**ON VIEW: September 20 – December 8, 2019****RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST: September 19, 4:00 – 7:00 P.M.**

Leonardo Drew, *134D*, 2012. 37.75 x 37.75 x 13.875 in.  
Wood, paint chips, acrylic and graphite on paper  
in Plexiglas box. (detail)

The University Museum of Contemporary Art is proud to present *Leonardo Drew: Cycles*. The exhibition will be on view from September 20 through December 8, 2019.

A Reception for the Artist will be held on Thursday, September 19, 4:00–7:00 P.M., and will include a Panel Discussion (4:30–5:30 P.M.) with the artist Leonardo Drew; collector Jordan Schnitzer; master printer Ruth Lundgren; and curator Lauren Haynes.

The exhibition includes 33 prints and three sculptures, made between 2014 and 2018.

The University Museum, located on the lower level of the Fine Arts Center at UMass Amherst, is open Tuesday–Friday, 11:00–4:30; Saturday and Sunday, 2:00–5:00; and until 8 P.M. on first Thursdays, when UMass is in session. The public is always welcome, and admission is free.

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During the past 30 years, Leonardo Drew has become best known for his installations, both sweeping in scale and intimate in detail, which transform materials such as cotton, metal, animal hides, and wood, often oxidizing, burning, and decaying his materials so that they are completely different from their original state.

The works on view in this exhibition demonstrate the artist's similar approach to process, experimentation, and materiality in the making of prints. Each work is the result of a complex exploration of printmaking processes. Through an intensive, collaborative process with master printers and papermakers at Pace Prints studio in Brooklyn and at Crown Point Press in San Francisco, Drew developed new processes and solutions to translate his three-dimensional practice into the print medium. This exhibition focuses on his experimental prints alongside a selection of wall sculptures.

A precocious artist, Drew won a competition at age thirteen for a drawing of Captain America, and later received offers to work in comics, but ultimately chose to pursue a career in fine art. He draws inspiration from art of the mid-twentieth century: the gestural movement of Jackson Pollock, the grids of Piet Mondrian, and the visceral materiality of Eva Hesse. Drew's compositions have been primarily monochrome and based on a loose grid structure. While artistically rooted to these histories of process-based abstraction and Post-Minimalism, Drew is also influenced by non-Western philosophical traditions, viewing his work as a

reflection of the cyclical nature of time, the continual processes of transformation, and the connectivity of all things.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Leonardo Drew was born in 1961 in Tallahassee, Florida, and he grew up in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He attended the Parsons School of Design and received his BFA from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 1985. Since then, he has shown his work in such museums as The Hirshhorn Museum in Washington DC; the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin, Ireland; The Art Institute of Chicago; The Miami Art Museum; St. Louis Art Museum; and the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, MA. Drew's work is included in public institutions including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington DC; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR; and Tate, London. He has also collaborated with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and has participated in artist residencies at Artpace, San Antonio, TX; and The Studio Museum of Harlem, NY, among others. He is represented by Galerie Lelong, New York.

Simultaneous with this exhibition, Leonardo Drew's *City in the Grass*, a large-scale aluminum, sand, and wood relief sculpture is on view at Madison Square Park, New York, through December 15, 2019.

## RELATED EVENTS

### September 19, Thursday / 4:00 – 8:00 P.M. / RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. / **PANEL DISCUSSION** with **Leonardo Drew** (Artist); **Jordan Schnitzer** (Collector); **Ruth Lundgren** (Master Printer, Pace Editions); **Lauren Haynes** (Curator of Contemporary Art, Crystal Bridges; former Curator, Studio Museum of Harlem)

### October 16, Wednesday / 5:30 – 6:30 P.M. / PLAY TO THE ART

Three musicians respond to the work of Leonardo Drew — **Jason Robinson** (saxes, flutes), **Bob Weiner** (drums, percussion), and **Carl Clements** (saxes and flutes). All are UMass and Amherst College faculty members.

### November 7, Thursday / 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. / ARTISTS ON ARTISTS / in collaboration with Amherst Arts Night Plus

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH led by artists **Rie Hachiyanagi**, Professor of Art, Mount Holyoke College, and **Amanda Maciuba**, Visiting Artist in Printmaking, Mount Holyoke College

### November 7, 8, and 9 / 7:30 P.M. / DANCE PERFORMANCE / Totman Performance Lab

UMass Department of Music and Dance students perform a piece based on the work of Leonardo Drew. Choreographed by **Paul Dennis**, UMass Professor of Dance.w

Support for the exhibition and related educational and outreach programs has been made possible by a grant from the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation.

The UMCA thanks UMassFive College Federal Credit Union for their support of our exhibitions.



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The UMCA is open Tue–Fri, 11:00–4:30, Sat & Sun 2:00–5:00; and until 8 P.M. on first Thursdays, when UMass is in session. Admission is Free.

Find updates about museum programs at [www.umass.edu/umca](http://www.umass.edu/umca). For additional information, please contact Betsey Wolfson, Business and Communications Manager; University Museum of Contemporary Art, Fine Arts Center; University of Massachusetts Amherst; 413 545-3672; [bhwolfson@acad.umass.edu](mailto:bhwolfson@acad.umass.edu). 7/31/2019