

Art Green
Curated by Jim Nutt

February 05, 2008 – March 28, 2009

(Opening reception Thursday, February 5, 6:00 – 8:00pm)

“Curiously his paintings are simultaneously both easy and difficult to look at. At first glance, there is a firmness of purpose and legibility of means that suggests casual grasp is possible. They seem to be and then *are* easy to read, encouraging a closer look. But this leads to my realization that something’s not quite right, but then it is. I have left easy-read and am now in the painting.”

—Jim Nutt

The innovative and compelling artwork of Art Green is a magnificent compilation of his experiences and artistic journeys. His studies at the Art Institute of Chicago amidst the contemporary Chicago art scene of the 1960s shaped a large portion of Green’s interests and artistic style. Throughout his life, Green has been surrounded by individuals interested in colors and pattern – his mother was an avid quilter and his wife is an Art Institute graduate in pattern and fabric design. The colorful geometric shapes and strong lines in Green’s work greatly underline such influences. Green was also a member of the Hairy Who, a Chicago-based group that embraced humor and vernacular expression. It is from this background that Green’s work takes off, skillfully guiding a viewer’s visual navigation of his work from a uniquely inquisitive, energetic and playful point of view. Although they are straightforward in technique and appearance, his paintings reward extended contemplation.

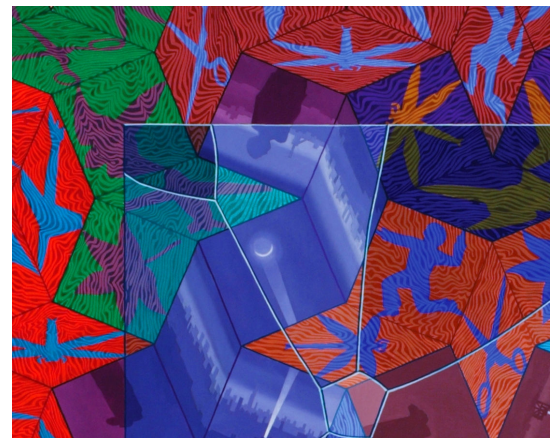
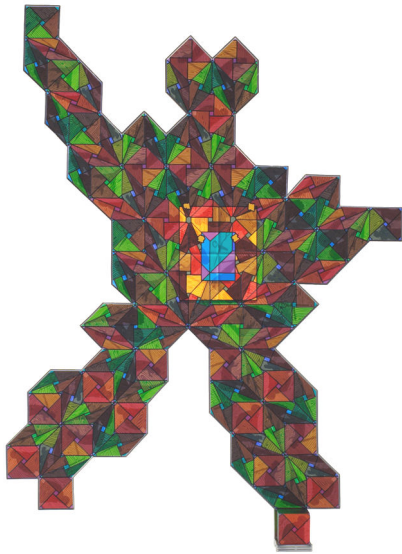
Art Green is enthralled with displaying multiple views of an object on a two-dimensional surface. *Blockbuster* (left), is one of Green’s first attempts to simultaneously represent all six sides of a cube. The irregular canvas makes it appear as if the cube has been splayed across the wall. Within the intricate shapes are flat images of scissors, people and planes that are

reminiscent of shadows. These images fit in nicely with Green’s penchant for turning three dimensional images flat and reappear throughout his more recent work. *Spin Cycle* (detail, right) is another example of his experimentation with intricate shapes and color combinations. In this work, Green set himself the problem of finding a way to fit 12 unfolded cubes together within a rectangle. The result is a multitude of cubes placed against one another, forming shapes within shapes and a plethora of flat imagery – all manipulated in one way or another for further aesthetic effect. The strong, bright colors seem to reverberate and shimmer across the surface – accentuating the overall dizzying sense of movement throughout the work. In this, and in his other works, Green plays with illusions of transparency, layering images that add another visual path to follow when navigating the pictorial surface. More recent paintings were inspired by amateur snapshots that juxtapose near and far.

As one might guess, Green’s work is highly controlled and contrived – resulting in an incredibly time-consuming process – each one taking an average of several months to complete. On view at CUE Art Foundation, Green’s first solo show in New York in over 30 years, will be ten pieces of his recent work, spanning the last few years. Green invites the viewer to work through the visual puzzles he himself has worked so arduously to solve – and to enjoy the process – as he explains that his ideal viewer is “someone with enough time on their hands to see the patterns, sort out the layers, interpret the imagery and question my motives.”

(More, over)

Blockbuster, 1987
Oil on canvas over fiberboard and oil on wood block
63” x 50” x 5” with 3 3/4” x 3 3/4” painted wooden block



Spin Cycle (detail), 2005
Oil on canvas
41” x 35”

For additional information, please contact Ryan Thomas, Programs Coordinator, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email ryan.thomas@cueartfoundation.org

Free catalogues available.

ARTIST'S BIO:

Art Green was born in Frankfort, Indiana in 1941. His mother was a natural colorist and gardener, who learned to piece quilts as a girl in Alabama. His father was a civil engineer, who worked for the Nickel Plate Road.

His work was profoundly influenced by the artists and teachers he met during his studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as by living in that city in the 1960's — a time and place of great contrasts and competing ideas. After he graduated, he joined five other recent Art Institute graduates for the first of a series of group exhibitions called the Hairy Who. In 1969, he accepted a teaching position at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax, Nova Scotia and that same year he married Natalie Novotny, an Art Institute graduate in pattern and fabric design, who influenced the subsequent appearance of patterned overlays in his work. They eventually settled in Ontario, Canada where he taught at the University of Waterloo from 1977 to 2006.

Some of his recent shows include a 2005 retrospective at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Kitchener, Ontario; a two-person show (with Suellen Rocca) at Chicago's Corbett vs. Dempsey Gallery in 2007 and a solo show at the Stride Gallery in Calgary, Alberta in 2008. His work is included in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, The Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario and the Museum Moderner Kunst in Vienna, Austria. Green's exhibition at CUE marks his first solo show in New York since 1981.

About CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, studio residencies, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts and performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York's Chelsea Arts District.

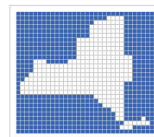
CUE exhibiting artists are chosen by their peers and a rotating group of advisors and curators from across the country. This pluralistic process ensures that CUE consistently offers diverse viewpoints from multiple disciplines of artistic practice.

Simply put, we give artists their CUE to take center stage in the challenging world of art.

Major program support is provided by The Accademia Charitable Foundation, Ltd., The Viking Foundation, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, The Joan Mitchell Foundation, Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, Inc., Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts (a State Agency).



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