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Zeke Williams: *Pick and Pop* Opens at Erin Cluley Gallery with A Reception October 14th

[Dallas, Texas – August 15th, 2023] **ERIN CLULEY GALLERY** is pleased to announce *Pick and Pop* – an exhibition of new work by Dallas-based artist Zeke Williams. The exhibition will be on view October 7th through November 11th, 2023, at the gallery’s main location, 150 Manufacturing Street, Suite 210. **An opening reception will be held Saturday, October 14th from 4 – 7 PM.** The gallery is open weekly Wednesday through Saturday, 12 – 5 PM and by appointment.

Throughout his career, Dallas-based artist Zeke Williams, has made use of digitally generated patterns in painting and — since 2020 — on wood. Though focused on the iconography of American landscapes and aviary, Williams’ recent works on wood build on artistic signatures first explored in his earlier abstract paintings. On canvas and wood, the artist’s experiments in color, composition, and patternmaking compose great spectacle. *Pick and Pop*, brings together a selection of large-scale wood landscapes from the artist’s newest body of work. The artist’s use of compositional repetition and application of theoretical mathematics dislodges the natural landscapes to dizzying effect. These works exalt and expose Williams’ dedication to artistic spectacle, Golden Age cinema, and nature.

Pick and Pop, puts an ironic spin on the artist’s method, often reproducing the same landscape over and over, emulating the seriality of filmstrips. Williams’ process starts by laying out his compositions digitally, which are then transferred to a CNC machine to render them in wood relief. In this body of work, Williams’ replicable landscapes — inspired by childhood visits to these monuments with his Grandparents — are spliced and sutured together.

Williams’ newest solo presentation incorporates a series of work developed around the recently discovered 13-sided shape, “Einstein’s Hat.” First theorized by Albert Einstein himself, the eponymous shape repeats without forming a pattern—*every arrangement is different every time*. In Williams’ *Einstein Tile Multi*, a tall wooden artwork, the shape is filtered through the artist’s signature prismatic palette—the patterns’ failed consistency paying homage to the organic beauty of natural landscapes and their baroque grandeur. His *Einstein’s Hat* pieces transform the lopsided scraps of his other landscapes as well as leftover paint into feats of mathematical invention and artistic rigor.

An avid watcher of Golden Age cinema, specifically the work of director and choreographer Busby Berkely, Williams takes inspirations from Hollywood glitz and glamor. His large works on wood demand viewers recognize their presence: intricate and disorienting geometry and diagonals recall the militant choreography of films like *42nd Street* and *Footlight Parade*. Williams renders in oil-glazed birch what Berkely, and other devotees of spectacle, capture on film. *Pick and Pop* invites viewers to rethink the nature of monumentality in Williams' career and his filmic inspirations.

Pick and Pop will be Zeke Williams' fifth solo exhibition with Erin Cluley Gallery.

Williams' first solo exhibition with the gallery was in 2015.

About the Artist

Zeke Williams (b. 1979) was born in Concord, Massachusetts and grew up in Fort Worth, Texas. He lives and works in Dallas, Texas. He received a BA from the University of Texas at Dallas and an MFA with a concentration in Printmaking from Texas Christian University. Following graduation, he went on to work at the Angstrom Gallery in Dallas and has contributed writing for Glasstire, an online Texas-based media outlet for arts criticism.

Williams' work has been exhibited in spaces such as The Arlington Museum of Art, North Park Center, and Site 131, and is included in the collections of Toyota Headquarters, UT Southwestern Medical Center and The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History. Williams has been a participant in both the Joong Boo Artist Residency and the residency at the Sydney Art Space. His work has been featured in publications including The Dallas Morning News, Glasstire, D Magazine and Arts and Culture Texas.

Currently, Williams is a professor at The University of Texas at Dallas. He enjoys musical theater, NBA basketball, drag performances and sandwiches served on French bread.

About Erin Cluley Gallery

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging, mid-career, and established artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

In 2014, Erin Cluley Gallery ignited a creative movement in West Dallas acting as a hub for visual arts and community engagement. After nearly five years on Fabrication Street, the gallery has moved its operation to Riverbend – a development in Dallas' Design District celebrating the intersection between culture and commerce.

In April 2021, Cluley opened Cluley Projects – a satellite location in West Dallas acting as an incubator space focusing on regional artists and providing a platform for discovery and mentorship.

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