

Convergent Evolutions: The Conscious of Body Work

Curated by Christiana Ine-Kimba Boyle

September 10 – October 23, 2021
 540 West 25th Street
 New York



Left to right: Lucas Samaras, *Sittings 8 x 10, 2/21/80*, 1980 © Lucas Samaras, courtesy Pace Gallery; Chibuike Uzoma, *One Had A Lovely Face*, 2020 © Chibuike Uzoma, courtesy the artist and Pace Gallery; Kiki Smith, *Untitled III (Upside-Down Body with Beads)*, 1993 © Kiki Smith, courtesy Pace Gallery; Rachel Eulena Williams, *Systems*, 2021 © Rachel Eulena Williams, courtesy Canada and Pace Gallery; Richard Pousette-Dart, *Radiance Number 8 (Imploding Light Red)*, 1973-74 © 2021 Estate of Richard Pousette-Dart / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

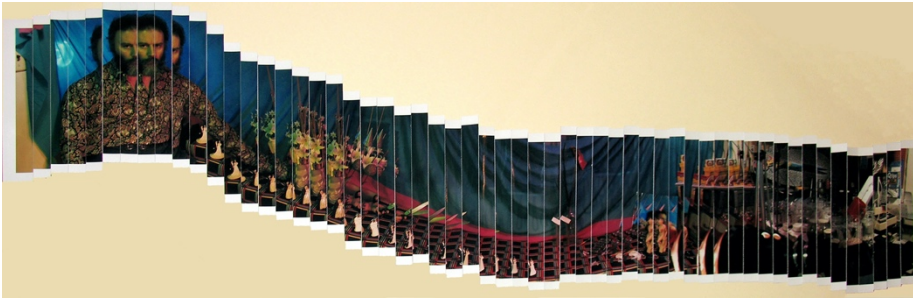
“Space is real for it seems to affect my senses long before my reason. The materiality of my body both coincides with and struggles with the materiality of space. My body carries in itself spatial properties, and spatial determinations ... Unfolding against the projections of reason, against the Absolute Truth, against the Pyramid, here is the Sensory Space, the Labyrinth, the Hole ... here is where my body tries to rediscover its lost unity, its energies and impulses, it’s rhythms and its flux.” — Bernard Tschumi as quoted in *Art on My Mind: Visual Politics* by bell hooks

New York – Pace Gallery is pleased to present *Convergent Evolutions: The Conscious of Body Work*, an exhibition curated by Online Sales Director Christiana Ine-Kimba Boyle and on view in New York from September 10 to October 23, 2021. The exhibition explores how intergenerational artists have used various instruments within their practices to grant or deny viewers the agency of viewership while also surveying the body’s response to the visual plane. Central to the presentation are the artists’ abilities to manipulate the ways that viewers interact with and experience their works. The show takes its title from a scientific term that refers to the development of similar traits in species belonging to different time periods.

The exhibition marks Boyle’s major curatorial debut at Pace. Since joining the gallery in May 2021, Boyle has spearheaded Pace’s growing NFT program. Among her recent online presentations was a showing of digitally rendered sculptures by Urs Fischer.

Spanning the entirety of Pace’s 510 West 25th Street space and featuring paintings and sculptures, *Convergent Evolutions* brings together emerging and established artists from within and beyond the gallery’s program. Works by 17 artists—including Anthony Akinbola, Jo Baer, Caitlin Cherry, Delphine Desane, Adrian Ghenie, Sam Gilliam, Sonia Gomes, Zhang Huan, Kylie Manning, RJ Messineo, Anna Park, Richard Pousette-Dart, Lucas Samaras, Marina Perez Simão, Kiki Smith, Chibuike Uzoma, and Rachel Eulena Williams—share a unifying consciousness despite their inherent temporal and geographic distances. Paintings by Pousette-Dart, a first-generation Abstract Expressionist and towering figure in the New York School, help situate the exhibition’s contemporary works in an art historical context. An online viewing room featuring additional works by *Convergent Evolutions* artists will also be on view, spotlighting two newly minted NFTs from Samaras’s 2011 XYZ series.

The artists featured in *Convergent Evolutions* use a multitude of devices, such as medium, technique, and installation, to drive conversations around the perception and intent in image-making. Works in the presentation challenge viewers to step outside personal narratives in search of deeper understanding. Key to many of the artists’ practices



Lucas Samaras, *Panorama 2/23/83*, 1983 © Lucas Samaras, courtesy Pace Gallery

and works in the exhibition is a restless exploration of the dissection and assembly of the body. Highlights in the exhibition include Samaras’s *Panorama 2/23/83* (1983), a dissected polaroid depicting an elongated vision of the artist in studio; Cherry’s *Quaternion* (2021), a figurative painting encased within an aluminum floor mounted frame bearing the elliptical shape of IMAX screens; Ghenie’s *Untitled* (2020), featuring a figure abstracted by layered shapes and gestural masses; and Williams’s *Systems* (2021), a series of tondos meticulously spaced out and interconnected by cotton rope made to represent an outstretched body.

Drawing through lines between contemporary and historical practices, the presentation offers investigative pairings between Samaras and Cherry; Pousette-Dart and Akinbola; Baer and Manning; Desane and Simão; Ghenie and Uzoma; Park and Zhang; and Gomes, Gilliam, and Williams. These connections naturally manifest through varying visual facilities, further supporting each artist’s individual research of the metaphysical space between their work and the viewer’s perspective.

Pace is a leading international art gallery representing some of the most influential contemporary artists and estates from the past century, holding decades-long relationships with Alexander Calder, Jean Dubuffet, Barbara Hepworth, Agnes Martin, Louise Nevelson, and Mark Rothko. Pace enjoys a unique U.S. heritage spanning East and West coasts through its early support of artists central to the Abstract Expressionist and Light and Space movements.

Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy as an artist-first gallery that mounts seminal historical and contemporary exhibitions. Under the current leadership of President and CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace continues to support its artists and share their visionary work with audiences worldwide by remaining at the forefront of innovation. Now in its seventh decade, the gallery advances its mission through a robust global program—comprising exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, performances, and interdisciplinary projects. Pace has a legacy in art bookmaking and has published over five hundred titles in close collaboration with artists, with a focus on original scholarship and on introducing new voices to the art historical canon. The gallery has also spearheaded exploration into the intersection of art and technology through new business models, exhibition interpretation tools, and representation of artists engaging with technology.

Today, Pace has nine locations worldwide including London, Geneva, a strong foothold in Palo Alto, and two galleries in New York—its headquarters at 540 West 25th Street, which welcomed almost 120,000 visitors and programmed 20 shows in its first six months and an adjacent 8,000 sq. ft. exhibition space at 510 West 25th Street. Pace was one of the first international galleries to establish outposts in Asia, where it operates permanent gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Seoul, as well as an office and viewing room in Beijing. In 2020, Pace opened temporary exhibition spaces in East Hampton and Palm Beach, with continued programming on a seasonal basis.



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