

David RYAN

2015 - 2023

30 août – 4 octobre 2025

Jean-Luc and Takako Richard present the seventh solo exhibition of the artist David RYAN at Galerie Richard titled 2015-2023 from August 30 to October 4, 2025 on the Turenne space. A prominent artist in Las Vegas and former student of renowned art critic Dave Hickey, David RYAN first gained recognition for his sophisticated bas-relief paintings featuring dynamic elliptical compositions. The exhibition brings together works created in 2015 and 2023. The 2015 works are mostly works on paper integrated between thin layers of expanded PVC. The 2023 bas-reliefs are more three-dimensional, with vertical forms that seem to stand on legs, and complex bas-reliefs with tensions and intersections between two or three elements.

David RYAN observes the contours of surfaces and, more specifically, the connections and gaps between closely fitted surfaces, like a three-dimensional puzzle. He begins by drawing directly with a computer mouse and then traces the connecting lines, which he manipulates to modify the organization of the surfaces. He then transcribes them into meticulous laser cuts of several sheets of medium-density fiberboard that are superimposed irregularly.

David RYAN's work is that of a painter, sculptor, and architect all at once. The visual effects are created by the interplay of overlapping curves, by what is shown or what remains hidden, and by the play of shadows, light, and colors created by the volume of the work.

David RYAN's iconic bas-reliefs, composed of superimposed layers of colored surfaces with rounded contours, are visually identifiable creations. The artist has continually expanded the visual territory of his painting-sculptures. He has also created works with different dynamics, such as those with floral aesthetics or those with the calligraphic aesthetic of broad brushstrokes.

For the exhibition entitled Dify Diaspora, in memory of Dave Hickey at the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, he showed for the first time a rectangular work, close to a square. This was due to a provocative suggestion by David Hickey, which he took up as a tribute to him. One might wonder whether this exercise in confinement, which was difficult for him at first, is not now the result of its opposite: an even clearer liberation from the limits of the frame and even the subject.

While the composition of his works has evolved, so too has his technique for applying paint. For the 2023 works, instead of the spray paint that leaves a uniform layer of color in the works for which he is known, he has delicately applied the paint with brushes, which gives a more sensual and personal hand-finished look.

While many artists repeat their visual vocabulary once they have developed it and the public recognizes it, David RYAN's creativity and adventurous spirit are to be commended. He produces works that are different in many ways, yet can only be identified as his own.

David RYAN was born in 1971 in Houston, TX, and lives and works in Las Vegas. He received a BFA from the University of Texas at Austin and an MFA from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His works are included in the collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, the Palm Springs Museum of Art, the Las Vegas Museum, the Weissman Foundation in Los Angeles, and the Borusan Center for Arts and Culture in Istanbul.