

REYNOLDS GALLERY

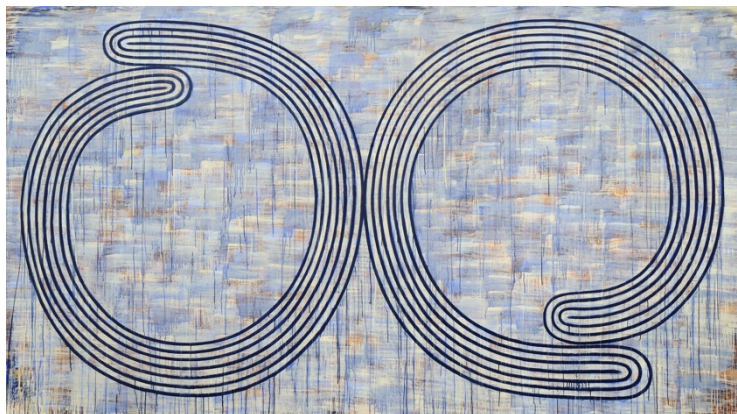
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEVEN CUSHNER

Tautology

July 20 - September 1, 2017

Opening Reception
Thursday, July 20
6 - 8 pm



Round and Round, 2016, acrylic on canvas, 74 x 134 inches.

Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *Tautology*, an exhibition of recent paintings by Steven Cushner, a Washington, D.C. based artist. *Tautology* exhibits watercolor paintings alongside acrylic on canvas works, ranging in scale from 24 by 30 inches to 6 by 12 feet. The show opens on Thursday, July 20 with a reception from 6 - 8 pm and continues through September 1, 2017.

Incorporating dripping paint within repetitive strokes and pattern-like forms, Cushner's works become both gestural and concrete expressions. Playing with abstraction and representation, he presents various imagery inspired by everyday sights. Fan-like, bulbous, or open-ended shapes vibrate with intensity as their thickly painted bands emerge from watery backgrounds. The objects' dominate position on the canvas reveals inverse shapes within the negative space, creating a complex duality in each painting. Deep, earth-toned color intersects with fluid lines to shape meditative, sinuous patterns. The paintings crawl with liveliness, as if depicting something from nature. Aqua hues and washy paint evoke water, while arched lines allude to plants or strange creatures. The dynamic compositions further this organic energy, almost mimicking nature with their cyclical, ordered quality. Loosely rendered forms and splashy backgrounds allow for open interpretation of Cushner's imagery. Whether the viewer correlates branches, signs, birds, or incomprehensible abstractions, the paintings all emanate an electric energy, a quirkiness separate from living things...perhaps conveying the root of Cushner's passions and spontaneity.

Cushner was born in Cleveland, later moving to receive his BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and MFA from the University of Maryland (1976, 1980). He currently teaches at George Mason University and previously taught at the Corcoran School of Art, Vermont College, and American University. He has exhibited at Cleveland Museum of Art, OH; Queens Museum of Art, NY; Stainer Gallery at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA; 1708 Gallery, Richmond, VA; The Katzen Arts Center at American University, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington Arts Club, and Hemphill Fine Arts, all, Washington, DC. He is the recipient of two Visual Artist Fellowships from the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and the Distinguished Alumni award from University of Maryland. His works are held in various public and private collections, including the American Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT; Markel Corporation, Richmond, VA; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Library of Congress, Washington Post Corporation, and Washington D.C. Convention Center, all, Washington, DC.

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