



## **S. LESER '68 + KALEIDOSCOPIES**

*October 10–November 2, 2024*

*Box Spring Gallery, Philadelphia, PA 19122*

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### **About S. LESER '68 + KALEIDOSCOPIES**

*Opening Reception: Thursday, October 10, 6–9pm / Exhibition Duration: October 10–November 2, 2024*

*Crane Arts, 1400 N. American St., #100C, Philadelphia, PA 19122*

*Open Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 1–6pm, or by appointment by emailing [contact@boxspringgallery.com](mailto:contact@boxspringgallery.com)*

This exhibition, invites viewers to experience a treasure-trove of never-before-seen patterns and designs from 1960s New York (only a small sampling on view). S. Leser's graphic designs have been all at once described as playful, geometric, groovy, and obsessive. Motivated by Op-Art and Orphism movements, the shift from her 1960s designs to '70s and '80s patterns coordinate with what was fashionable and the pop culture of the time. Mod color-blocking and psychedelic-like treatments give way to Memphis-inspired patterns, while still retaining her signature illustrative style. Some of the colorful works are made with fluorescent paints which glow under black light, and many of her black-and-white designs come to life as vibrating or turning optical illusions.

In the 1990s, S. Leser created her *Kaleidoscopes* series, a huge collection of concentric circular designs (only a portion on view) inspired by the classic toy, but experimenting with halftones in place of colors. Extraordinary detail and symmetry in contemporary design often points to the use of digital mediums, but every piece created by Leser is painstakingly hand-drawn. As obsessively meticulous her designs may be, there are tiny imperfections that indicate a very determined artist was behind them.

Leser's *Kaleidoscopes* are easily compared to the *mandala* (circle in Sanskrit); a symmetrical and balanced design symbolizing the universe, common to South Asian religions and spiritual practices. And locals may instantly recognize similarities to hex signs of the Pennsylvania Dutch. There is also an obvious connection to the human disposition towards order, geometry and an innate mathematics. Although Leser might disagree that there's any connection to math, she does experience creating the designs as a somewhat spiritual practice of deep concentration and flow.

Highly influenced by, and a collector of vintage Emilio Pucci fashion, S. Leser has been inspired and encouraged to apply her designs to textiles. She plans to launch the S. Leser '68 brand with partners in the near future.

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**S. LESER** [gabyheit.com/sleser/575](http://gabyheit.com/sleser/575) / [@s.leser68](https://www.instagram.com/s.leser68)

### **Artist Statement**

Looking into a child's kaleidoscope and seeing the movement and color, I wanted to see if I could transfer the same feelings into flat circles of black and white. I have always worked in color and decided to create black and white graphics that would encompass variations in tones of gray and maintain the movement and excitement of a changing kaleidoscope.



### **Biography**

S. Leser, a graphic artist, works in pen and ink, gouache and colored papers. She has a masters degree in Art Education from New York University and has also studied at the Art Students League in Manhattan. She has taught high school art in Westchester, NY, and worked for Estee Lauder and Coty as a freelance designer. More recently she has worked as an Educator at the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, NY.

### **About BOX SPRING GALLERY**

[boxspringgallery.com](http://boxspringgallery.com) / [@boxspringgallery](https://www.instagram.com/boxspringgallery) / [contact@boxspringgallery.com](mailto:contact@boxspringgallery.com)

*Crane Arts, 1400 N. American St., #100C, Philadelphia, PA 19122*

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Celebrating where art and design meet, Box Spring Gallery provides carefully curated exhibitions with opportunities to purchase contemporary art and design by a variety of creatives.

Box Spring Gallery provides support in all aspects of a creative career, aiming to be an outlet for new audience visibility, educational exchange and cross-disciplinary discourse. Our main goals are to provide creatives with opportunities, guidance, and to educate the consumer public. We strive to show a wide range of creative discipline, innovation and purpose, and look to collaborate with like-minded partners.

*Box Spring Gallery is a participant of both DesignPhiladelphia and CFEVA's Philadelphia Open Studio Tours 2024 festivals.*

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S. Leser

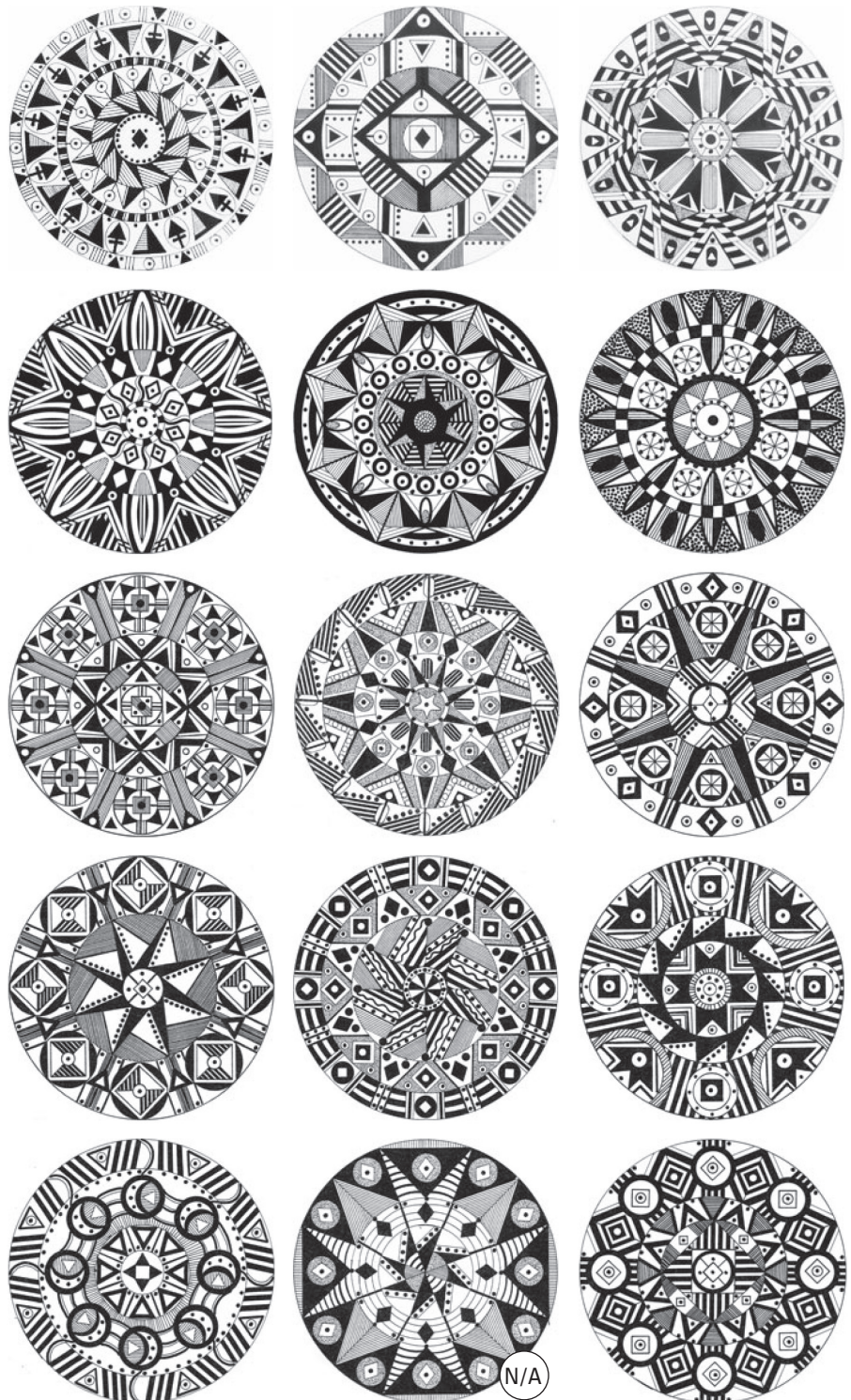
*KALEIDOSCOPIES*

Pen and Ink

5.75" diameter

14" x 11" framed

\$280 each



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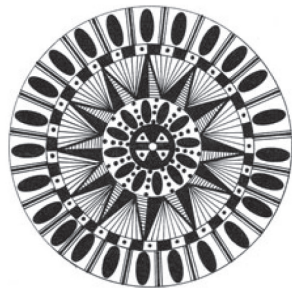
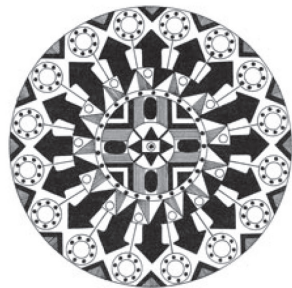
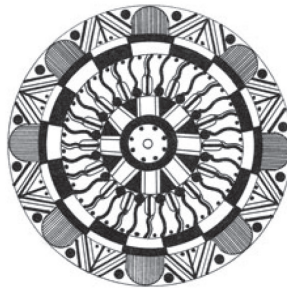
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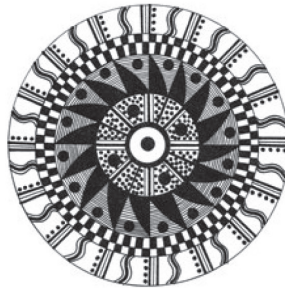
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S. Leser

***KALEIDOSCOPES***

Pen and Ink

8.25" diameter

20" x 16" framed

\$460 each



N/A



N/A



N/A



N/A



N/A



N/A



N/A



N/A



N/A



N/A

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*KALEIDOSCOPES*

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20" x 16" framed

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N/A



N/A



N/A



N/A



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*KALEIDOSCOPIES*

Pen and Ink

7.25" diameter

18" x 14" framed

\$400 each (off-site)



S. Leser

*KALEIDOSCOPIES*

Pen and Ink

9.0+ diameter

16" x 16" framed



N/A

9.0"



N/A

9.5"



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**BOX SPRING GALLERY** is the collaborative effort of Gaby Heit and Robert A. Stewart, Esq.

**GABY HEIT** [gabyheit.com](http://gabyheit.com) / [@gabyheit](https://twitter.com/gabyheit) / [gaby@gabyheit.com](mailto:gaby@gabyheit.com)

Gaby Heit is an art/photo director, graphic designer and creative consultant with a master's degree from Pratt Institute. A four-time gallery director and independent curator, Gaby has represented artists from Philadelphia and New York, and has produced numerous exhibitions that celebrate connections between fine art, science, and design. Some include shows for Le Méridien Hotel, Main Line Health, AIGA, Philly Tech Week, DesignPhiladelphia, the University City Science Center, and more.

With many years of experience in print publishing, she has led the creative direction, rebranding and design for national magazines covering fashion, travel, women's services, business, and fine art. Gaby regularly consults with all kinds of creatives on presentation, organization and self-promotion, and her latest project is opening Box Spring Gallery in Philadelphia in June 2024.

### **ROBERT A. STEWART, Esq.**

Robert is a long-time resident of Philadelphia and the husband of artist, Michele M. Tremblay, who passed away in 2022. As a college student he had the good fortune to attend art education classes at the Barnes Foundation in Merion taught by Violette De Mazia and Barton Church. Robert's first art purchase, made in 1973, was an oil painting by Edwin Brent and later he and his wife Michele acquired works by Roger Anliker, Charles Schmidt, Marie Bender, George Sorrels, Carol Oldenburg, Dan Wittels and Roberta Daar. His late wife's work can be viewed online at [artofmichele.com](http://artofmichele.com), as well as a large mural opposite the entrance to Jefferson Hospital on 9th Street in Philadelphia, which Michele created with New York artist Polly Apfelbaum.