

## MEETING NEW CIRCLES

May 8 – 31, 2025

Box Spring Gallery, Philadelphia

### About MEETING NEW CIRCLES

Opening Reception: May 8, 6–9pm

Box Spring Gallery at Crane Arts,  
1400 N. American St, 100C, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Open Hours: Thurs–Sats 1–6pm, or by

appointment: [contact@boxspringgallery.com](mailto:contact@boxspringgallery.com)

Box Spring Gallery presents **Meeting New Circles** in partnership with CFEVA (Center for Emerging Visual Artists) and in anticipation of their annual Art Party, happening on May 29. This month, Box Spring Gallery celebrates geometry in art and the colorful abstract works of three CFEVA artists: Paula Cahill, Andrew Chalfen and Duwenavue Santé Johnson.

Striving for excellence is like drawing a circle. Aside from the mathematical definition (a plane figure where every point on a line is equidistant from the center point), a circle is described as intrinsically *divine*. It represents unity, wholeness, infinity and perpetual motion. There is no variation of the shape except size. It is found in nature (iris of the eye, rainbow, center of a flower, the moon), man-made concepts (the wheel, compass, mandalas, wedding band), and the spiritual (community, life cycles, halos, God). A circle embodies so much inherent power as the simplest of things. It's no wonder humans have a natural affinity and attraction to circles. It's as close to divine perfection as we get.

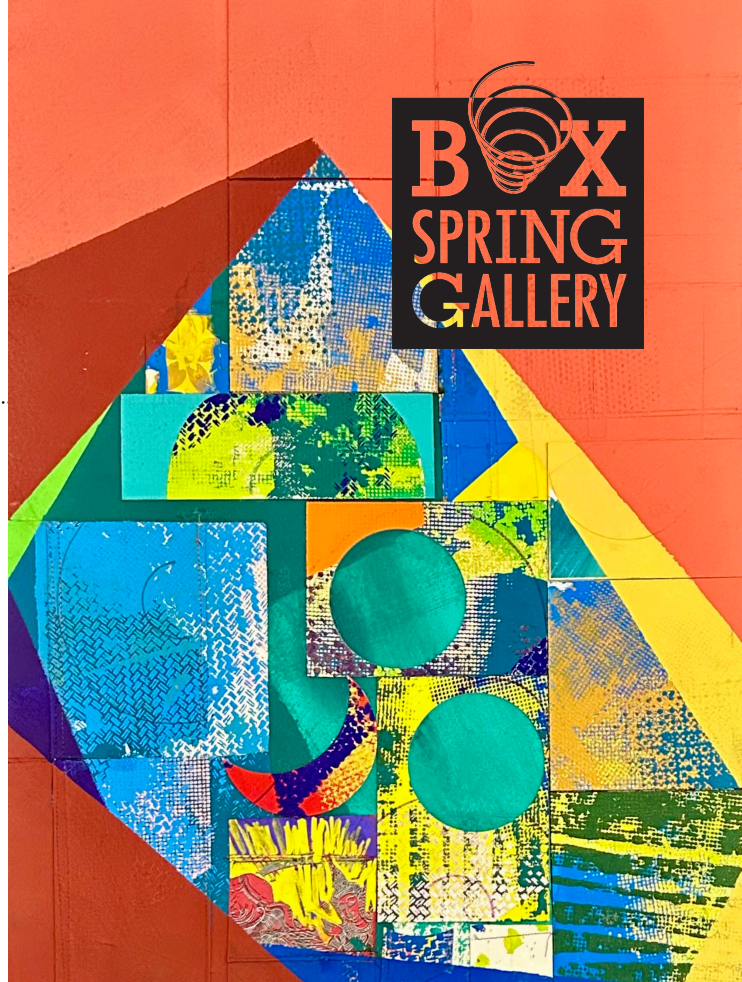
But what about in relation to other shapes and the not-so-perfect lifestyle? These three artists demonstrate the playfulness of circles, especially as abstract expression; overlapping, intersecting, bouncing like balls, and as negative space. One way Chalfen describes his work is as “a non-representational way of depicting how we relate to the world and to one another.” Likewise, Cahill says “My work is interactive, inviting the viewer to track a mix of meticulous circles and meandering, color-changing lines.” She continues to examine the “complex physical properties and philosophical underpinnings” that circles possess. All the artists describe their work as a meditative practice. And Johnson describes “the shapeshifting nature when chaos presents itself, migrations and journeys are sure to follow, leading to circular beauty and joy” reflecting on her own artistic journey and all its ups, downs, and revolutions.

**CFEVA (Center for Emerging Visual Artists)** [cfeva.org](http://cfeva.org) / [@philacfeva](https://www.instagram.com/philacfeva)



CFEVA's goal is to coordinate a strong support system for the Greater Philadelphia region's visual artists. By providing artists with the tools and resources they need to succeed and by creating meaningful connections between working artists and the local community, CFEVA is helping to nurture the region's most promising artistic talent and cultivating new generations of art lovers.

Above: *Steadfast* by Duwenavue Santé Johnson





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**PAULA CAHILL** *paulacahill.com / @paulacahillpainter*

### Artist Statement

“Lines and circles are everything. Extending infinitely to the past and future, they form the basis of geometry and our realities.”

I create abstract compositions that are often made up of intersecting luminous lines and circular forms. As I prepare to paint, I mix 20 to 100 gradients of color and flat carefully selected background colors. By repeatedly laying down the paint one brushstroke at a time, I create circles, and light-filled lines that change color: sometimes, hundreds of times. My work is interactive, inviting the viewer to track a mix of meticulous circles and meandering, color-changing lines.

I strive to push the historical conversation with geometry into the contemporary and elevate the integral role it has played in art, design, and the sciences since its early appearance in rock and cave drawings. Catalysts for my most recent paintings include geometry, physics, and history.

### Biography

Paula Cahill is a contemporary American artist. She is known for her green and dark blue paintings composed with circles and light filled, color changing lines.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Paula relocated to the Northeast where she received merit and academic scholarships while pursuing an education in the arts. She holds an MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and a BFA from Tyler School of Art and Architecture. She also studied at the Art Students League of New York and Parsons School of Design where she received a merit scholarship as a transfer student. Paula served as an undergraduate critic and speaker at Temple University. In addition, she was a visiting artist at the Westtown School in West Chester, Pennsylvania and has given artist talks for the Abington Art Center and the Abington School District.

Paula's paintings have been exhibited extensively in solo and group shows throughout the North East. Her paintings are included in prestigious private and public collections throughout the United States, most notably the Charles Library Collection at Temple University, the Capital One Corporate Collection, and Brandywine Realty Trust at Schuylkill Yards to list a few. Recent paintings are currently on view at Box Spring Gallery in Philadelphia, Further and Again at the North Museum in Lancaster Pennsylvania, Linespace at Rio Tinto by Hot•Bed Philly, and Perry Lawson Gallery in Nyack, NY.



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**ANDREW CHALFEN** [andrewchalfen.com](http://andrewchalfen.com) / [@i.think.like.midnight](https://www.instagram.com/i.think.like.midnight)

### Artist Statement

I am fascinated by patterns, how they ripple, radiate, refract, bloom, interact, cluster, construct, and deconstruct. My works allude to aerial views, cartography, architectural renderings, musical notation, urban densities, and other natural and man-made patterns, while not literally being any of those things. Rather, my pieces reflect the psychological states during their creation, a kind of topography of thought and mood as I work through various aesthetic themes that have long held my attention. Shapes often spill out over edges, suggesting unseen continuations beyond, while others seek containment. My recent mixed media assemblages with painted dowels focuses on connections, intersections, and layers, a non-representational way of depicting how we relate to the world and to one another.

My process mirrors that of songwriting and music arranging. I utilize the repetition of a small selection of formal elements, subtle variation, the timbre of color palate, rhythm, and a combination of randomization strategies and intentionality. Every work is a process journey, in which I refine elements that grab me from previous pieces, and then push into unknown territory with experimentation and risk, always iterating. I follow my instincts, deviate from them when necessary, and trust the process to guide the work to a successful outcome and maybe even a breakthrough or two.

Viewers may not know what to focus on first, becoming overwhelmed and subsequently absorbed in the details. The experience is reminiscent of mediation. Certainly working on these pieces in the studio is a meditative, flow state way of being, where I can take my time to think about and explore through art-making themes of nostalgia, anxiety, play, musicality, fragility, impenetrable data, accretion and erosion, and physical and psychic fragmentation.

### Biography

Andrew Chalfen is a visual artist and musician living and working in Philadelphia. His work has been featured at two solo shows in 2023, and has appeared at many exhibits nationally and in and around Philadelphia, PA, such as at the Abington Art Center, The Hoyt Center, the Delaware Contemporary, Viridium Gallery, and many Philadelphia locations via his art collective, Inliquid. Chalfen's work has appeared on book jackets and rock album covers. He is the recipient of several awards and was the winner of the Bombay Sapphire Artisan Series Mid-Atlantic Regional for 2018. His piece *Vibration Lands* was displayed at SCOPE Miami during the Art Basel/Art Miami fair.

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**DUWENAVUE SANTÉ JOHNSON** [artxstitch.com](http://artxstitch.com) / [@sante\\_artxstitch.art](https://www.instagram.com/sante_artxstitch.art)

### Artist Statement

Contemplating the past and future is central to my work as I seek to understand the intertwined nature of the world and personal struggles. Sharing, communicating, and inspiring others to follow what grows and brings confidence is paramount to creating a bright future. The space I work in determines the size of my pieces, while the world outside defines my color palette, experiences, and focus. My mission is to engage audiences and promote dialogue, understanding, and appreciation of our diverse heritage and shared history. I am committed to fostering connections, bridging divides, and promoting social cohesion, holding space for others to share and express their stories through textile-inspired media such as collages and hand embroidery—allowing engagement opportunities to stitch, mend, and bond stories together in a specific time and space. Paper, fabric, and thread become the vessels through which narratives unfold, each piece a page in a book, each shape a moving image. My goal is to continually evolve and refine my craft, creating visual outcomes that foster understanding and connection, leaving a lasting impact on the communities I serve.

### Biography

Duvenavue is an accomplished hand embroiderer and contemporary artist who refuses to limit herself in any one medium. Being influenced by world travels, she draws from colors, environmental patterns, and textures while focusing on incorporating many styles of painting and textile work from formal education guidance and cultural influence. As a teacher and needle arts professional, she maintains precision and the details found in the art of Heraldry. Her passion in this field of study is to share the value of craftsmanship and hand embroidery as wellness. She sees hand embroidery as an action of resistance, embodying accessibility and timelessness, transcending boundaries of class, race, age, and gender. Each stitch serves as a meditative act, a bridge between the past and present, and a vehicle for shared learning and empowerment. The themes of movement, cultural identity, and cultural stewardship are at the core of her practice. Painting and printmaking are also natural expressions of how the world is reflected in the past, present, and future. Her painting focuses on a dialogue using watercolor, gouache mediums, and handmade stencils for texture and color depth on silk fabric and paper. A primary objective in all of her practices is to maintain an eco-component that leads to a slow art movement and for the stewardship of space. As a three time cancer survivor, never knowing her last breath, she maintains a belief that legacy and passing down knowledge is a must for the marginalized, especially in spaces surviving trauma, erasure, food disparity, and education limitations and environmental pollution. The act of living is resistance. Her art career started with an apprenticeship in Bangkok alongside artists for the Royal Thai national painter, Chakrabhand Posayakrit, focusing on traditional mural arts at Wat Tridhosthep Worawihan transitioning to textile arts in Shantiniketan, India, and New Delhi.

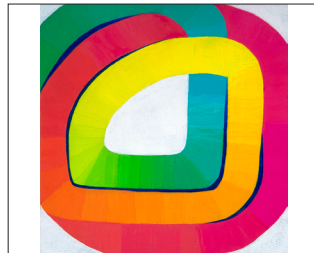
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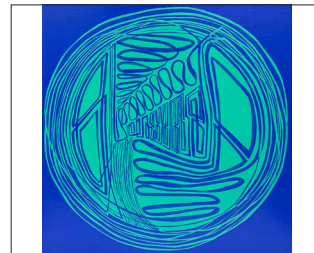
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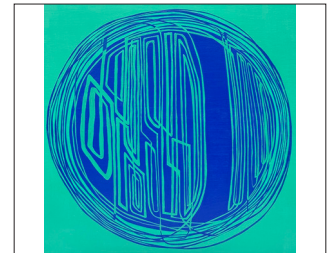
Paula Cahill  
*One-liner*  
oil on canvas  
36"x 36"  
\$3,000



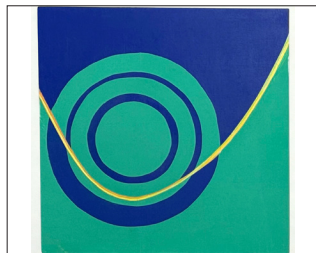
Paula Cahill  
*Wrap III*  
oil on panel  
8"x 8"  
\$500



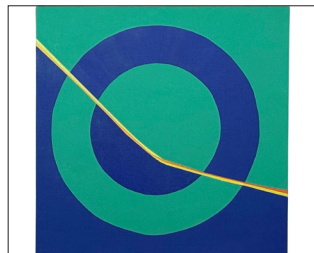
Paula Cahill  
*Untitled*  
acrylic and flashe on panel  
10"x 10"  
\$500



Paula Cahill  
*Untitled II*  
acrylic and flashe on panel  
10"x 10"  
\$500



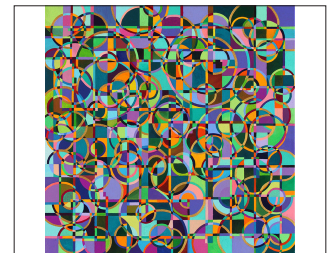
Paula Cahill  
*Suspended*  
acrylic and flashe on panel  
10"x 10"  
\$500



Paula Cahill  
*Suspended II*  
acrylic and flashe on panel  
10"x 10"  
\$500



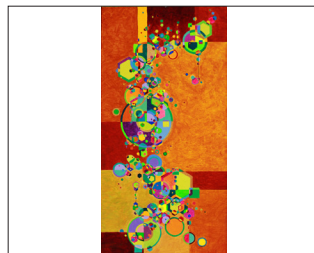
Andrew Chalfen  
*Though About*  
acrylic on canvas  
24"x 18"  
\$900



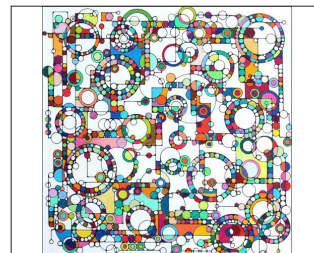
Andrew Chalfen  
*Emergence Refraction*  
acrylic on canvas  
30"x 30"  
\$2,200



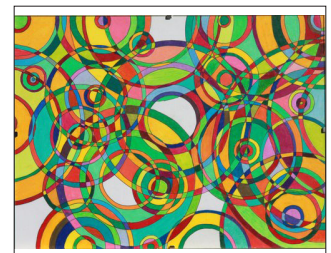
Andrew Chalfen  
*Localized Microburst*  
gouache on wood panel  
12"x 12"  
\$400



Andrew Chalfen  
*Sibling in Dirt*  
acrylic on canvas  
24"x 12"  
\$900



Andrew Chalfen  
*Elevation*  
ink, colored pencil on paper  
10"x 10" (13"x 13")  
\$350

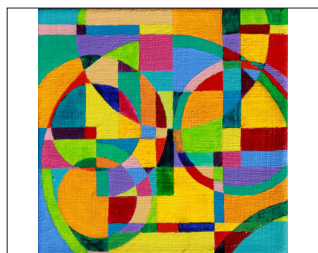


Andrew Chalfen  
*Puddle 2*  
ink, colored pencil on paper  
9"x 12" (12"x 15")  
\$300

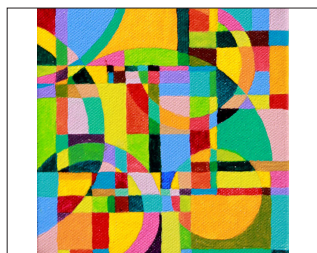
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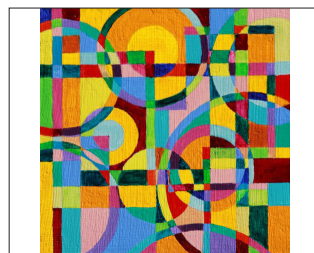
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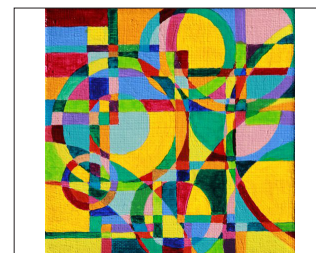
Andrew Chalfen  
*Refraction I*  
acrylic on canvas  
5"x 5" (6"x 6")  
\$400



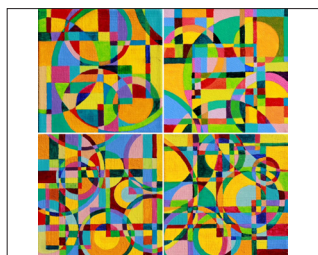
Andrew Chalfen  
*Refraction II*  
acrylic on canvas  
5"x 5" (6"x 6")  
\$400



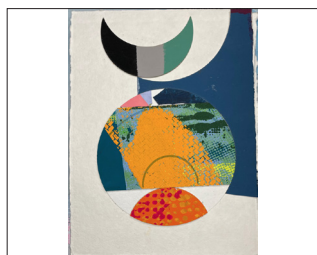
Andrew Chalfen  
*Refraction III*  
acrylic on canvas  
5"x 5" (6"x 6")  
\$400



Andrew Chalfen  
*Refraction IIII*  
acrylic on canvas  
5"x 5" (6"x 6")  
\$400



Andrew Chalfen  
*Refraction* (set of 4)  
acrylic on canvas  
5"x 5" (6"x 6") each  
\$1,300



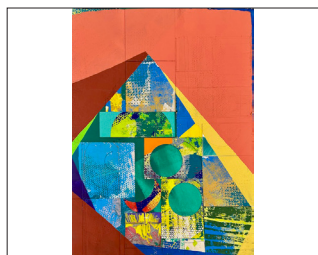
Duwenavue Santé  
Johnson  
*Inner Strength*  
mixed media  
12"x 9" / \$250



Duwenavue Santé  
Johnson  
*Standing Still*  
textiles, mixed media  
25"x 34" / \$1,200



Duwenavue Santé  
Johnson  
*Awaiting Beauty*  
mixed media  
22"x 30" / \$650



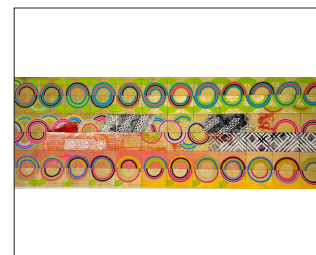
Duwenavue Santé  
Johnson  
*Steadfast*  
mixed media  
30"x 22" / \$650



Duwenavue Santé  
Johnson  
*Transference*  
mixed media  
12"x 16" / \$300



Duwenavue Santé  
Johnson  
*Stability*  
mixed media  
12"x 16" / \$300



Duwenavue Santé  
Johnson  
*A Balanced Sound*  
textiles, mixed media  
82"x 30" / \$1,600



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

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

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 aims 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.

**GABY HEIT** [gabyheit.com](http://gabyheit.com) / [@gabyheit](https://www.instagram.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, DesignPhiladelphia, Philly Tech Week, 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 was to open 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.