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**CHRIS FRASER: *ANIMATED***  
FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION AT GALLERY WENDI NORRIS OPENS SEPTEMBER 10

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 10, 6–8PM



L to R: *Static* (installation), 2015

August 14, 2015 – San Francisco, CA – Gallery Wendi Norris is pleased to announce that Oakland-based artist Chris Fraser, who recently joined the gallery’s roster, will exhibit new work in his first solo exhibition at the gallery this fall. For *Animated*, on view from September 10 through October 31, Fraser will debut two bodies of work: a group of light-activated sculptures that invite shifts in sensory and spatial perception, and a complementary series of intricate black-and-white photograms produced in the darkroom using the same sculptural materials.

The sculptures featured in *Animated* are composed of layered arrangements of perforated metal bordered by luminous glass tubes. Three of these works will hang on the wall like portrait-sized mirrors, and the fourth, the height of a human body, will rest against the wall. The tubes contain five compressed noble gases that create different colors when electricity passes through them: neon is red, argon is blue, helium is peach, krypton is a cool white, and xenon is purple. (Fraser has chosen not to employ the sixth noble gas, radon, because it is radioactive). As the viewer moves around the sculptures, each color emanating through the perforations interacts on the walls and ceilings, forming shifting patterns that seemingly vibrate. These sculptures can only be activated—and therefore fully experienced—by a viewer who is physically present.

Fraser says, “The idea of working with light and perforated metal initially came from speeding along the highway and glimpsing the rapidly changing patterns created by chain link fences on the overpasses.” The artist also cites, among other references, Robert Morris’s Minimalist boxes and Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s theory of phenomenology, which examines the fundamental role that individual perception plays in understanding and engaging with the world.

The sculptural works in *Animated* are, in a sense, dependent upon movement, whereas the photographs reflect the utmost stillness. The large-scale photographs are installed vertically, their physical presence reminiscent of pillars or monoliths. Displayed together, they suggest a two-dimensional architectural rendering. Each was created in the controlled environment of the darkroom by shining light directly onto photographic paper through layers of perforated metal sheets to create intricate patterns. In these works, Fraser has managed to immobilize and capture the ever-shifting perceptions he encourages through his immersive sculptures. Even as he represents the phenomena of movement in a single frame, he continues to play with the viewer's perception: up close, the grays and black dots over a white background blur, but from afar, the patterns appear crisp and distinct.

The industrial materials and exacting construction of the sculptures featured in *Animated* reveal the investigations of a methodical carpenter-cum-physicist. Half artist, half mad scientist, Fraser employs light to slow down the act of observation, unraveling the image so that the viewer can focus on the basic elements that construct our everyday perceptions.

### **ABOUT CHRIS FRASER**

Chris Fraser received a BA in History from the University of California, Davis and an MFA in Studio Art from Mills College in Oakland, California. His work has been exhibited at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and Highlight Gallery in San Francisco; the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, Germany; Disjecta Contemporary Art Center in Portland, Oregon; and the Palazzo Bembo as part of the 55<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale in 2013. Fraser has been featured in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Fast Company*, *ArtSlant*, and *SquareCylinder*, among other publications. He was a recipient of the Jay DeFeo MFA Prize in 2010 and was awarded a Eureka Fellowship by the Fleishhacker Foundation in 2014. He has participated in the Graduate Fellows Program at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California, and the Djerassi Resident Artist Program in Woodside, California. *Looking Back*, a solo exhibition featuring a site-specific installation at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art in Scottsdale, AZ, will be on view from October 3, 2015 through January 10, 2016.

### **ABOUT GALLERY WENDI NORRIS**

Gallery Wendi Norris presents both a Contemporary and Modern program that showcases a variety of artists working over many geographic locations and in a wide array of media. The gallery, located in downtown San Francisco, often shows two exhibitions simultaneously in order to encourage a re-contextualization of work by Modern artists while providing connections with the Contemporary. Gallery Wendi Norris is active locally as well as internationally, working with individual collectors and museums alike in both primary and secondary markets. Founded with an emphasis on scholarship and education, the gallery produces researched exhibition catalogues, sponsors artist talks, hosts visiting academics, and engages in local public art projects, among other initiatives. Learn more at [gallerywendinorris.com](http://gallerywendinorris.com).

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