

Iowa

Fad infinitum

Susan Cianciolo, Audrey Gair, Ingrid Yi-Chen Lu, Nancy Shaver, Amy Stober

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The serial repetition inherent to pattern places it at the intersection of image and abstraction. Cheetah print is animal skin, but so far out of context, it becomes diluted of any natural origin. A random scattering of spots coalesce into polka-dots, their own entity. The grid, in fabric form, becomes checkered or plaid.

Pattern suggests infinity. Though cut off by the frayed edge of a quilt or oblique stitching of a skirt, there is a promise of endless and predictable repetition. Materials oscillate between the deeply familiar and wholly impersonal – between a memory, say, the delicate florals of your grandmother’s favorite scarf, and a blind spot, the unremarkable houndstooth of a stranger’s umbrella. Lemniscate, the word for the infinity symbol, means “decorated in ribbons” in Latin. Fads, like people, come and go – but pattern keeps the record.

Like the decorative, pattern has suffered the injustice of a historic disregard. Frivolous and lacking substance – these accusations carry over to fashion too, depending on who you’re speaking to. This dismissal intertwines with a general skepticism towards fabric as a central material, not just the surface upon which paint is applied, but as form and content itself. Activated by function, produced in mass, they’ve said it stands at odds with the sanctity of art’s higher purpose.

The works in this exhibition reject such a reading by activating the tensions of patterning. Operating somewhere between the legible and the absurd – striped ties simulating paint strokes as they fold over canvas, perfectly uniform blocks covered in clashing fabrics – the materials create an internal agitation, melding a gentle irreverence with devotion to abstraction. This liminality is playful and resolute. The patterns carry the message of the lemniscate, the cyclical weaving of taste and time.

Susan Cianciolo (b. 1969, Rhode Island, USA) lives and works in New York. She studied Fashion Design at Parsons The New School for Design and painting at Winchester School of Art. She began her career by interning at Geoffrey Beene under Alber Ebaz. Cianciolo also worked as production manager for Kim Gordon's X-girl line and then moved on to assistant collection designer at Badgley Mischka. Cianciolo collections are regularly featured in museums and galleries internationally; her designs, artworks, and films have been included in recent solo exhibitions at Modern Art, London, United Kingdom (2017); Yale Union, Portland, OR, USA (2016); 356 S. Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA, USA (2016); Bridget Donahue, New York, NY, USA (2017; 2015); and Alleged Gallery, New York, NY, USA (2001). Her work has been included in group exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA (2017); The Swiss Institute, New York, NY, USA (2016); Interstate Projects, New York, NY, USA (2016); Lisa Cooley, New York (2016); White Columns, New York, NY, USA (2016); MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY, USA (2015); and Portikus Museum, Frankfurt, Germany, among others.

Audrey Gair (b. 1992, Miami, FL) lives and works in New York. Upcoming exhibitions include a solo presentation spanning Frieze New York and King's Leap (New York, NY). Recent solo and two person exhibitions include Eli Kerr (Montreal, CA), Bad Water (Knoxville, TN), South Parade (London, UK), King's Leap (New York, NY), and Sebastian Gladstone (Los Angeles, CA). Selected group exhibitions include Chateau Shatto (Los Angeles, CA), Depa Archive (Ghent, BE), Freddy (Harris, NY), Room 3557 (Los Angeles, CA), Clearing (Casa Da Cultura, Comporta, PT), Galerie Crèvecoeur (Paris, FR), Galerie Hussenot, (Paris, FR), In Lieu (Los Angeles, CA).

Ingrid Yi-Chen Lu (b. 2000, Taipei, Taiwan) is an artist based in Brooklyn, NY. Her painting practice explores material processes, diary writing, and collecting habits. She works in oil and acrylic, combined with textiles, clay, and found objects. Her work has been shown at White Columns, New York, NY; Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR; Morgan Lehman, New York, NY; National Arts Club, New York, NY; and Romance, Pittsburgh, PA. Lu is currently an MFA candidate in Painting and Drawing at Pratt Institute and holds a BFA in Fine Arts from Parsons School of Design.

Nancy Shaver (b. 1946 in Appleton, NY) lives and works in Jefferson, NY. Select solo and two-person exhibitions include *Duet*, MAMOTH, London, UK (2024); *New work, floor and table models, (on the floor)*, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY (2022); *Copper and Propane, a photograph: what it is and what it isn't*, F, Houston, TX (2022); *Blockers, Spacers and Scribble Drawings 2020*, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2021); *fastness, slowness and Monstrous Beauty*, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY (2020); *Alex Olson and Nancy Shaver: Waters, 12.26*, Dallas, TX (2019); *Nancy Shaver: Reconciliation*, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT (2015); *Feature, Inc.*, New York, NY (2002-2011) and *Curt Marcus Gallery*, New York, NY (1987-1999). Select group exhibitions include *Inaugural Group Exhibition*, Derek Eller Gallery, New York, NY (2024); *The Interior Life: Recent Acquisitions*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (2023); *Nothing is to be Done for William T. Wiley*, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2022); *One Day at a Time: Manny Farber and Termite Art*, MOCA, Los Angeles, CA (2018); *Outliers and American Vanguard Art*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. (2018); *VIVA ARTE VIVA*, 57th International Exhibition of Art, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (2017); *Greater New York*, MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY (2015); and *Robert Gober: The Heart is Not a Metaphor*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2014). Her work is included in the permanent collections of Whitney Museum of American Art; Hammer Museum; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY.

Amy Stober (b. 1994, New Jersey) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Stober's recent solo exhibitions include *Hand in my Pocket* at Page NYC, New York, NY, *Self Storage* at A.D. Gallery, New York, NY, and *Holding Patterns* at Springsteen Gallery, Baltimore, MD. Recent group and two-person exhibitions include *Three Sides Enclosed, the Fourth Open to a Wash of the Weather* at Ensemble, New York, New York, *Ditto* with Emma Schwartz at Hesse Flatow, New York, NY, *Mickey* at Mickey, Chicago, IL, *The Artificial Silk Girl* at Brunette Coleman, London, UK, *Elective Affinities* at Chapter NY, New York, NY, *Sinkhole Project is Presenting* at Mickey Gallery, Chicago, IL, *May My Fiction Rule* at Chris Andrews, Montreal QC, and *Electric Affinities* at T293 Gallery, Rome, IT.