

# Numina

Six Artists Exploring Consciousness



Fariba Bogzaran, Nancy Genn, Mike Grady, Jeremy Morgan, Zea Morvitz, Peter de Swart



### Art Works Downtown

1337 Fourth Street, San Rafael, CA 94901  
www.artworksdowntown.org

In collaboration with the Lucid Art Foundation  
www.lucidart.org

### Production Staff

Elisabeth Setten: Executive Director  
Nate Castillo: gallery designer and installer  
Co-designers: Fariba Bogzaran and Susan Searway-Fertig  
Editors: Emily Anderson and Nancy Lund  
Photography: Sina Dehghani  
Published by Artworks, ©2026

# Numina

Six Artists Exploring Consciousness

### Artists:

Fariba Bogzaran, Nancy Genn, Mike Grady, Jeremy Morgan,  
Zea Morvitz, Peter de Swart

**Curator:** Fariba Bogzaran, cofounder, Lucid Art Foundation

October 2–November 14, 2026  
October 9 + November 13, Receptions + Art Walks

Front Cover: artwork details top: Nancy Genn (left); Zea Morvitz (middle); Peter de Swart (right);  
artwork details bottom: Mike Grady (left); Fariba Bogzaran (middle); Jeremy Morgan (right)  
Back Cover: Peter de Swart, *Figure #3*, 2023, redwood, 36" x 7"

## Curatorial Statement

This exhibition presents art as a way of knowing. Entering the unknown territories of consciousness and inner spaces requires multiple approaches. Science and art offer different, yet complementary, ways of exploring phenomena. The quantitative methods of science and the qualitative inquiries of artistic practice illuminate experience from different directions. Art contributes to this broader understanding through its capacity to reveal and communicate dimensions that might otherwise remain unseen or invisible.

Art is a form of inquiry that creates an intersubjective encounter between the artwork and the viewer. A work of art is not merely an illustration of knowledge acquired elsewhere; it can itself become a site of discovery.

The unveiling of inner space likewise calls for a multiplicity of approaches. In this exhibition, each artist enters this world through a distinct visual language, revealing dimensions of inner and outer experience through abstraction, automatism, alchemy, nature, light, and energy.

The artworks themselves become portals. Some invite contemplation and sustained attention; others seize us immediately. Each offers a different threshold between the known and the unknown.

### The Exhibition

I was invited to curate this exhibition exploring the relationship between art and consciousness and to participate as one of the exhibiting artists. Given the breadth and depth of this subject, *Numina* offers only a glimpse into the long and sustained explorations represented here. This exhibition creates a constellation of artworks rather than a comprehensive survey.

Intentionally, I chose artists in the later stages of their careers. For decades, they have pursued questions concerning art, consciousness, and the unknown. Their work reflects sustained inquiry into inner experience and its relationship to the world around us.

### The Artists

Three artists in this exhibition—Mike Grady, Jeremy Morgan, and myself—were professors in the Department of Arts and Consciousness at JFK University in Berkeley, California. Our practices were shaped by Western art traditions as well as Asian philosophy and aesthetics. Grady and Morgan were both inspired by J. M. W. Turner, while my own work was influenced by the surrealists, particularly Giorgio de Chirico, and, more profoundly, my experiences of lucid dreaming and hypnagogia.

For Grady, art, meditation, and yoga are inseparable, joined in a single state of awareness. Morgan's paintings seek to register "the magic, the mystery, the beauty and the enigmatic nature of being," reflecting his understanding of consciousness as that which connects us indivisibly to nature. All three of us have engaged, in different ways, with Buddhist and Taoist philosophies and practices, yet each approaches consciousness through a distinct artistic language and practice.

Nancy Genn's paintings immediately resonated with qualities central to this exhibition: meditation, abstraction, and an openness to experience beyond representation. Her lifelong dedication to painting and her affinity with the work of Mark Tobey offer another path into these territories. Exhibiting her work since 1947, Genn brings to this exhibition a remarkable lifetime of sustained artistic exploration.

Zea Morvitz and I have been part of the Bishop Pine Preserve artist community in Inverness, California, for three decades—a lineage connected to the writer Jacqueline Johnson and the artists Gordon Onslow Ford, J. B. Blunk, and John Anderson. While alchemy may be an implicit influence in the work of some of our works, it enters Morvitz's work explicitly. Her visual language transforms elements of nature into living presences, where transformation becomes both a material and a psychic process.

Peter de Swart's work creates a threshold between what he calls "presence and absence." His work invites us into the space between the visible and the invisible. Working across sculpture, painting, and multimedia installation, he creates environments that evoke the contemporary, the sublime, and the otherworldly. The opening verse of the *Tao Te Ching* reminds us that what can be named or spoken is not the eternal Tao. De Swart similarly observes that "what is not said is as important as what is said; language is steeped in silence."



*Uma #19, 2024, acrylic on mulberry paper on canvas, 24" x 18"*

## Fariba Bogzaran

*"My art arises from many sources: the transpersonal dimensions of lucid dreaming and hypnagogia, particularly experiences of light and void; energy practices such as Tai Chi; and contemplative living in nature. My scientific and artistic practices are in harmony, forming a phenomenological approach to entering the inner worlds. I believe we are multidimensional beings, and I draw upon different creative methodologies to explore these dimensions, venturing into the unknown. Artworks can become 'consciousness activators' emerging from these experiences and opening a doorway to the collective consciousness we share."*



*Uma #20, 2024, acrylic on mulberry paper on canvas, 16" x 16"*



*Patagonia*, 2024, casein on canvas, 72" x 36" x 1 1/2"

## Nancy Genn

*"In painting, I am deeply drawn to the unique qualities of light and transparency that emerge through the creative process. Creating art gives me a deep sense of emotional satisfaction. The joy and pleasure are found in the act of creating itself. Art is not entertainment; it is never easy. Sometimes an artist needs weeks or even months for a painting or sculpture to reach completion. Although I did not formally study Zen, my way of painting incorporates a spiritual dimension that is very important to me. Gradually, the paintings became more linear, as I searched for a new expression and a new way of seeing. There was no one to copy or imitate. It was coming from within."*



*Rainbars #31*, 2011, casein on canvas, 54" x 34 1/4" x 1 1/4"



*Eventide*, 2000, acrylic on canvas, 72" x 36" x 1 1/2"

## Mike Grady

*"My artwork has always been a search for the unknown. Each piece is a meditation, an extension of those that came before it and those that will emerge in the future. I choose the format of abstract painting to free myself, and the viewer, from associations with time and duality that can limit our collective consciousness. I experience the act of creating each artwork as timeless and transcendent. The final work exists in stillness. I hope each painting arrives as a surprise. Yoga is now everything I do; making art yoga, sitting silently yoga, moving yoga, writing yoga, playing around yoga, sailing yoga, eating-drinking-and-sleeping yoga. It's all about joining body, mind and spirit. In art, that fusion creates a link to others – to the culture that recognizes the joy and transformative energy of creative expression."*



*North Light*, 2016, acrylic on paper on board, 74 1/2" x 21 1/2"



*Within the Embrace of Time*, 2023, acrylic on digital (original) on silk over canvas, 63 3/4" x 38"

## Jeremy Morgan

*"As a painter, I explore the realms of fusion between myself and the natural world and the events that unfold within it. Painting is a form of 'archiving consciousness,' using time as a 'chronicle of being'—a record of what was seen, what was sensed, what was optically observed, and what was psychically perceived. Consciousness is no more owned by us, as individuals, than the air we breathe. It is vital to our existence; as it sustains and animates us, it also allows us to give back to the universe that which has silently been received within us."*



*GWYNT (Wind)*, 2026, acrylic on canvas, 56" x 44"





*Sweeping*, 2018, limited edition print on paper, 23 ½ " x 16 ½"

## Peter de Swart

*"The work needs to speak back to me—or rather, confront me with its own silence, its inaccessibility, its remoteness from me, which is at the same time a kind of closeness. Abstractus means 'drawn away': not drawing the work toward you, but away from you, away from your concerns as an individual, so that it may gain a life of its own. In that sense, it is not a representation or reflection of consciousness; it wants to go further, to distance itself from you. You want the impossible: for the work to be visible and invisible, present and absent at the same time."*



*Sweeping*, 2018, limited edition print on paper, 24 ½" x 17"

# Curator

**Fariba Bogzaran**, Persian-born, is a multimedia artist, scientist, and visionary. She studied art at Exeter College, England (1978–1979), and printmaking, with a focus on collagraph, at the University of Wisconsin (1979–1984). A pioneer in lucid-dream research and education, she conducted scientific research with the Lucidity Institute team at the Stanford Sleep Laboratory. She received her MA and PhD from the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) in San Francisco. She conducted the first scientific study of spiritual experiences in lucid dreams, as well as two art-based phenomenological research that led to the concept of Lucid Art.

In 1998, Bogzaran cofounded the Lucid Art Foundation with surrealist painter Gordon Onslow Ford, establishing programs that bring together art, deep ecology, and consciousness through artist residencies, exhibitions, publications, and seminars. She was a professor for two decades at JFK University in the Arts and Consciousness and Interdisciplinary Consciousness Studies Departments.

As an artist and curator, Bogzaran has exhibited and organized numerous exhibitions exploring the intersections of art, science, and dreams for more than three decades. Among the many visionary exhibitions she curated are *Shamanic Art* (1987), *Zen and Art of Hodo Tobase Roshi* (1991), *Through the Light* (1997), *Hypnopompia* (1999), and many more. Her own artistic practice has been presented in exhibitions including *Lucidity* (2013), a retrospective curated by Peter Selz at Meridian Gallery in San Francisco, and *Art of the Lucid Mind* (2022) at the Bolinas Museum.

Bogzaran is the author of several books and art catalogues. Her long-term contemplative practices include Tai Chi Ch'uan, meditation, and ritual performance. She lives and maintains her studio in Inverness, California.

faribabogzaran.com

# Biographies

**Nancy Genn** was born in San Francisco and is known for mastering a variety of media, including painting, bronze sculpture, printmaking, and handmade paper rooted in the Japanese washi paper-making tradition. Her work is known as geometric abstraction, non-objective form, and includes a period of artworks with calligraphic mark-making.

Genn studied at the San Francisco Art Institute (formerly California School of Fine Arts) with painter Hassel Smith, and at the Art Department at the University of California, Berkeley (1947-1949). A national treasure, she has exhibited her art in numerous galleries and museums nationally and internationally since 1947, including at SFMOMA; Metropolitan Museum of Art; de Young Museum; MOMA, New York; Oakland Museum; Art Institute of Chicago; and Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Her artworks are in major museum collections, such as: LACMA, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Oakland Museum, and many others. Genn lives and has studios in both Inverness and Berkeley, California.

nancygenn.com

**Mike Grady**, born in Long Island, New York, is an artist, writer, and educator. He began his interest in Asian art as a student at the Boston Museum School and Tufts University. He is a former Chair of the Arts and Consciousness Department at JFK University in Berkeley, California, where he taught and oversaw numerous exhibitions by MFA graduates. He has lectured and written on the transformative qualities of art and creativity. Grady was the Department Chair at Appalachian State University in North Carolina and a former Vice President/Dean of Students at the San Francisco Art Institute. He has been an advisor to the Lucid Art Foundation for several years. He has exhibited his painting nationally and internationally in Germany, China, and New Zealand. Grady has a special interest in Asian art, philosophy, and spirituality. He has explored the connections of art to health, social change, personal growth, and organizational development. As a sailor and a traveler, he has explored every continent except Antarctica and every state in the US except Alaska. He lives and has his studio in Berkeley, California.

mikegradyarts.com

**Jeremy Morgan**, born in Wales, UK, was educated at the Ruskin School of Drawing (University of Oxford), 1974-77; The Royal Academy Schools (RA), London, 1979-82; and at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI), 1983-85. Between 1983-85, he was a Harkness Fellow. He was an Associate Professor of Painting at SFAI, where he taught from 1989 to 2023 in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Morgan also taught at JFK University (Arts and Consciousness graduate program) and CCA in Oakland, California, and has given various workshops in China (CAA Hangzhou, CAA Beijing, Luxan Academy, Shenyang). He has exhibited in the US, UK, and China. His work is represented in the collections of Lucent Technologies (CA); Beringer Wineries in Napa, CA; Saks 5th Avenue, New York, NY; CAFA, Beijing; and CAA, Hangzhou. He is a faculty member and Voting member of the Lucid Art Foundation. He is represented by Silicon Valley Asian Art Center (San Jose and Santa Clara). He lives in Forest Knolls and has his studio in San Rafael, California.

[jeremyphmorgan.com](http://jeremyphmorgan.com)

**Zea Morvitz**, born in Baltimore, received her BA in Philosophy from Wellesley College and lived in New York, where she attended The Art Students League. She also worked in the book production department at Simon and Schuster. In 1968, she attended UC Berkeley, where she studied with Elmer Bischoff and received an MA in Painting. Morvitz was introduced to Gordon Onslow Ford and worked as his studio assistant for 18 years. She is a founding and active member of Gallery Route One (GRO), a nonprofit art organization in Point Reyes Station where she now works as codirector of the Visiting Artist Program. She is a fellow and was twice awarded a residency at the Ballinglen Art Foundation in Ireland. Influenced by Alchemy, for decades she has produced a large body of work connected to Alchemy and art. She not only works on paper and graphite but also has been making book art for a number of years. Morvitz’s work has been exhibited across the US, Canada, and Europe, and is in public collections. She lives and has her studio in Inverness, California.

[zeamorvitz.com](http://zeamorvitz.com)

**Peter de Swart**, born in the Netherlands, comes from a family of artists. He is a sculptor and mixed-media artist. He studied philosophy, art, and literature in Paris and Los Angeles, where he also apprenticed with his uncle, the renowned architectural sculptor Jan de Swart. He explores the concept of Presence and Absence in his meditative and sublime works of art.

Among de Swart’s several exhibitions are: *In the Eye of the Beholder*, 2011, Bolinas Museum; *Numinous: Peter de Swart Sculptures from the Light Series*, 2019, Lucid Art Gallery, Inverness; and exhibitions in San Francisco at SFMOMA artist gallery, Dorothy Weiss Gallery, and Edith Lambert Gallery in Santa Fe. He has an upcoming show at the Continuum Gallery in Point Reyes Station, California. De Swart has been a faculty member and advisor for the Lucid Art Foundation for over a decade. He lives and has a studio in Inverness, California.

[peterdeswartsculpture.net](http://peterdeswartsculpture.net)



# Art Works Downtown

## Mission

To provide an environment where visual arts thrive for the well-being of our community.

Art Works Downtown is a 501(c)(3) Marin's premier non-profit organization with a vibrant artist activity in the heart of downtown San Rafael. Our 40,000-square-foot building is home to galleries, 33 artist studios, innovative businesses, affordable housing, and more. We carry out our mission through exhibitions, events, and our popular 2nd Friday Art Walk.

## Art Works Downtown is more than an art center.

We believe visual art is a universal language that connects people across cultures, backgrounds, and experiences. Art inspires new perspectives, encourages understanding, and brings people together.

As a public charitable organization, we rely on your generosity to help provide a place where artists create, audiences discover and collect art. Your support makes art thrive and your donation is fully tax-deductible allowed by law.

[www.artworksdowntown.org](http://www.artworksdowntown.org) | Instagram: @artworksdowntownmarin



**artworksdowntown**  
the place where artists + community connect

# Lucid Art Foundation

The Lucid Art Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit private operating foundation established in 1998. Its vision was conceived by Fariba Bogzaran in collaboration with surrealist painter Gordon Onslow Ford.

The Foundation supports artists whose work explores the intersections of art and consciousness. To carry out its mission, the Foundation offers several programs, including artist and scholar residencies, seminars, publications, exhibitions, webinars, and music performances.

The Foundation has published two award-winning books: *Gordon Onslow Ford: A Man on a Green Island* (2019) and *A Place of Creation* (2024), which documents the work of Lucid Art Residency artists and scholars. Other publications include *Red Hat, Green Hat* (2024), by surrealist painter Roberto Matta; *Artists, Poets, and Visionaries of the S.S. Vallejo: 1949–1969* (2018); and several other publications.

## Foundation Team:

Fariba Bogzaran, Ph.D., founding director, Emily Anderson, MA, managing director  
Nancy Lund, MA, head registrar, residency & communications coordinator  
Sina Dehghani, collections manager, photography

P. O. Box 1199, Inverness, CA 94937 | [www.lucidart.org](http://www.lucidart.org) | Instagram: @lucidartfoundation



