



Los
Angeles
Municipal
Art
Gallery

Step & Repeat

Educator's Guide

The Show.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs' (DCA) Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG) proudly presents *Step & Repeat*, a group exhibition curated by Nancy Meyer and John Weston. *Step & Repeat* brings together 46 Southern California based artists, whose practices engage with pattern and decoration. The exhibit was inspired by the historical Pattern and Decoration movement of the mid 1970s to mid 1980s and its impact across our region.

All of the artists have been inspired by pattern and decoration, with some having strong influences from the Pattern and Design movement. The artists in *Step & Repeat* use a variety of materials, media, themes, techniques and methods to create artworks using repetition of shapes, lines, colors, patterns, designs, decorative, and ornamental elements. Some of the artists embrace pattern and decoration as the subject of their work, while others utilize elements of pattern as an aspect of their work. The exhibition seeks to show the different representations and interpretations of how contemporary artists work with pattern, decoration and ornamentation.

Other themes explored in the exhibition include: creativity, meditation, altered states and flow states of consciousness which means that a person is in the moment in a positive state of mind when their activity is flowing well and they are fully immersed in their creative process. Some artworks explore feminism and domesticity; and psychedelic aesthetics which show bright, neon, fluorescent colors, and wild patterns. Through the use of these themes in the context of pattern and decoration, the exhibition is a multidimensional exploration of the ways in which artistic practices express the artist's personal, cultural and historical narratives.

The title of the exhibition, "*Step and Repeat*" is a term used for publicity backdrops for special events, particularly red carpet events for film premieres. The reference to Hollywood hints at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery's (as well as many of the included artists) physical proximity to Hollywood.

Artists in *Step & Repeat* include: Liv Aanrud, Merrick Adams, Nick Aguayo, Michelle Andrade, Amelia Baxter, Linda Besemer, Raghvi Bhatia, Carole Caroompas, Fritz Chesnut, Edi Dai, Tomory Dodge, Roy Dowell, June Edmonds, Sharon Ellis, Edie Fake, Amir H. Fallah, Asad Faulwell, Patricia Fernández, Terri Friedman, Ishi Glinsky, Valerie Green, Mark Steven Greenfield, Sabrina Gschwandtner, Sherin Guirguis, Channing Hansen, Zach Harris, Lorenzo Hurtado Segovia, Jim Isermann, Soo Kim, Ahree Lee, Emily Marchand, Allison Miller, Dianna Molzan, Jaime Muñoz, Milena Muzquiz, Elyse Pignolet, Antonio Adriano Puleo, Caris Reid, Ana Rodriguez, Aili Schmeltz, Mindy Shapero, Brooklin A. Soumahoro, Jen Stark, Astri Swendsrud, Mark Dean Veca, and Bari Ziperstein.

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is a facility of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

Land Acknowledgement.

It is important that the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery prioritize respect for both the historic culture and the contemporary presence of indigenous peoples throughout California, and especially in the Los Angeles area. To that end, and particularly as a public and civic institution, we acknowledge that our gallery resides on what was historically the homeland of Kizh, Tongva, and Chumash peoples who were dispossessed of their land.

If you would like to learn more about the land you are on please visit this [link](#).

The Artist.



Photo credit: Anthony Girardi

Terri Friedman (b. Denver, Colorado, lives and works in the San Francisco Bay area).

Her work explores the relationship between the mind and the body, including healing and meditative processes, and the neuroplasticity of the brain. This is how the brain can adapt and be influenced by what we see, such as colors, and what we hear and believe about ourselves. Her art examines the effects that brain chemistry has on creating heightened, elevated, and emotional states. The utilization of color, a variety of fibers, visual language, and abstract gestures are used to activate chemicals like serotonin, endorphins, dopamine, and oxytocin. These are the chemicals and hormones in the brain responsible for feelings, such as happiness and joy, which may also inspire creativity, and overall feelings of wellness. Friedman believes that “cultivating these elevated states and happy hormones is a political and personal weapon that serves as a barrier against uncertainty, anxiety, and despair.” Her artworks are expressions of these states of being.

Terri Friedman received her BA with Honors from Brown University and her MFA from the Claremont Graduate School. Having received critical reviews in *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times* and more. In 2019 she was included in *Vitamin T: Threads and Textiles* in Contemporary Art, Phaidon Press. She has exhibited at such venues as the Geffen Contemporary MOCA, Long Beach Museum of Art, CUE Art Foundation NYC, Berkeley Art Museum (Art Wall), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Jose Museum of Art, Orange County Museum of Art Biennial, and more. She received a San Francisco Artadia Award in 2021. Friedman's artworks are in private and public collections. She resides in El Cerrito, California with her family. She is an Associate Professor at the California College of the Arts.

The Artwork.



***I prefer nonfiction*, 2021**

Wool, cotton, acrylic, hemp,
chenille fibers

93 x 72 inches

Courtesy of the artist.

Photo credit: Josef Jacques

Terri Friedman refers to herself as a “painter who weaves.” Her textile artworks create the feeling that they are spontaneously created, however, each one is planned in meticulous detail, starting with the composition, to the choices of the fibers, including wool, cotton, hemp, and chenille to plan how they are finished and displayed. After she selects the fibers, each artwork is planned and then drawn on an iPad. Her textiles are abstract and non-representational, but have what she calls “a body like quality.” The weavings show parts of the body, such as eyes, uvulas, and cords that appear to resemble the curvy intestinal tract, orifices, veins, and textured, hairy sections. This weaving has large openings, holes, and cracks between the fibers to allow the light to shine through or “penetrate” each artwork. She often includes words as “invitations or reminders to the viewer,” which provide an additional idea or layer to contemplate and reflect upon.



***I prefer nonfiction*, 2021**

Wool, cotton, acrylic, hemp, chenille fibers

93 x 72 inches

Courtesy of the artist.

Photo credit: Josef Jacques

Discussion Prompts.

Terri Friedman's multi-colored, textured weavings are abstract, but have recognizable elements, including body parts and words. Let's look at her unique weaving and see what your ideas might be!

- What materials do you see? If you were to create a woven textile artwork, what types of yarns, fibers, and fabrics would you use to create a unique one-of-a-kind weaving and why?
- When you look at this weaving, what are the recognizable elements you notice first? What might each section represent? Which sections remind you of the body? Why do you think the artist used these body parts? What might these body or facial features symbolize or mean to the artist? What do they symbolize to you?
- How would you describe the textured fibers? Why do you think the artist created different textures and styles of weaving, leaving open spaces in between sections? How do the colors, patterns, and overall design express the artist's ideas?
- Look closely, what word can you find? Why do you think she included that word and what does it mean to you? If you were creating a woven artwork, what word would you use to express something special or meaningful to you?
- What steps or process do you think the artist used to create this artwork? How do you think she first imagined this artwork? If you were to create a weaving that started as a drawing using the technology of an iPad, tablet, or computer, what would you create? How does the use of technology in combination with traditional craft and fine art making help artists make artworks?

The Artist.



Photo courtesy of the artist.

Photo credit: Deen Babakhyi

Emily Marchand (b. 1982, Sacramento, CA, lives and works in Los Angeles.)

There are many facets to her art and community practices, including creating ceramic sculptures, community organizing, and cooking events. Marchand's ceramic sculpture in *Step & Repeat* addresses themes of archetypes and the land. Inspiration comes from "the native and manufactured landscapes of Los Angeles." She refers to her sculptures as "a celebration and memento mori of the creatures that I am inspired by, knowing they too, will suffer the same peril brought on by climate change." Other bodies of work and community activities include an exploration and investigation into "Big Agriculture", seed banks, food scarcity, and gardening. She feels that "art has the power to make real change in the world, and it starts with active gestures within my work."

Marchand earned an MFA from California Institute of the Arts Valencia, CA and a BA from University of California in Los Angeles, CA. Solo and two-person exhibits include: OCHI Gallery, Los Angeles, CA 2025; The Four Seasons, SPRING/BREAK Art Show, Los Angeles, CA; 2019 Solarium, The Pit, Los Angeles, CA; and 2017 brittle peace, Emily Marchand & Lena Wolek, Nowspace, Los Angeles, CA. Her work has been exhibited at venues including The Carolyn Campagna Kleefeld Contemporary Art Museum in Long Beach, CA; The Pit, Hashimoto Contemporary, Nowspace, La Loma Projects and OCHI in Los Angeles, CA; and Setareh Gallery in Düsseldorf, Germany. In 2023, Marchand was awarded an Individual Artist Fellowship from the California Arts Council and in 2019 she participated in CURRENT:LA FOOD, a public art triennial based in Los Angeles. Her work has been featured and reviewed in publications including Architectural Digest, New York Times, Hyperallergic, PBS SoCal's Artbound, and Time-Out.

The Artwork.



peace in the garden (blue heron, flamingo, swan, vulture), 2022

Stoneware, glaze, underglaze

23 x 16 x 16 inches

Courtesy of the artist and OCHI

Photo credit: Robert Wedemeyer

Emily Marchand creates forms that are embedded with flora and fauna, vegetables, fruits and eggs. In this sculpture titled ***peace in the garden (blue heron, flamingo, swan, vulture)*** there are four birds. Their long necks are intertwined and form a loose knot. This “tender embrace is an exercise in accepting these peaks and valleys”, which is about cycles, and ups and downs in life.

Each ceramic, patterned bird represents an archetype. An archetype is a term from the field of Psychology and symbolizes a particular kind of person, personality or character trait, symbol, behavior, or a way of being. This sculpture also represents elements in our environment. The blue heron symbolizes patience and grounding, which is when you feel connected to the Earth and nature, and the Los Angeles River which runs through several miles of Los Angeles from urban crowded areas out to the Pacific Ocean and has many ecosystems. The pink flamingo symbolizes devotion, travels, and salt. The swan represents friendship and wisdom. The vulture is about acceptance, new beginnings, and the balance between life and death. Animals, places, and their themes are items the artist revisits and repeats often in her artworks.



peace in the garden (blue heron, flamingo, swan, vulture), 2022

Stoneware, glaze, underglaze

23 x 16 x 16 inches

Courtesy of the artist and OCHI

Photo credit: Robert Wedemeyer

Discussion Prompts.

This ceramic (clay) sculpture represents different types of personalities, ways of being, symbols and elements from nature. The artist has embellished the artwork with patterns in certain areas.

- What animal do you see? Why might their long necks be intertwined? What might this mean or symbolize to the artist, or to you?
- What birds do you think are in this sculpture and how would you describe each one? What might their personalities or character traits represent?
- If you were to create a sculpture of animals, which ones would you choose and why? How can animals represent different personalities? What elements from nature would your animal artwork symbolize or represent?
- The artist uses ceramic sculptures of birds to express different archetypes. An archetype is an example of a particular kind of person, personality or character trait, symbol, behavior, or way of being. What archetypes, character traits, or symbols would you show in a sculpture?
- The embrace of these four bird sculptures is about learning to accept ups and downs - as the artist says, “the peaks and valleys” of life. What can we learn from animals about how people treat each other, how to co-exist, challenges, and how to appreciate differences?

The Artist.



Photo courtesy of the artist

Antonio Adriano Puleo (b. 1976, Boston, MA, lives and works in Los Angeles.)

Puleo's abstract geometric arrangements of form, color, and shapes explore and emphasize interconnectedness. In addition to his small scale paintings, Puleo designed a new site-specific mural for the exhibition. His four studio paintings are displayed on his mural. Placing the paintings on the wall creates a connection between his painting and architecture which spans the past, present, and the future. Puleo grew up in a bilingual household that was culturally diverse from his surroundings. He was aware of the differences that existed between what was inside the home and the world outside. He "understood the world through a tangle of language." His relationship with language relates to the relationship he has with his inner-self and abstraction, which are represented through his paintings.

Antonio Adriano Puleo received his MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has exhibited at galleries and institutions including LAXART, Los Angeles, CA; Pavel Zoubok Gallery, New York, NY; Kantor Feuer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, CA; China Art Objects, Los Angeles CA; and The East Gallery at Claremont Graduate University. His works are included in numerous private and public collections including most recently the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. His work has been reviewed and featured in many publications including Artforum, The New Yorker, LA Weekly, The Los Angeles Times, and Flash Art.

The Artwork.



Untitled, 2024

Oil, acrylic and mixed media on canvas

16 x 12 inches

Photo credit: Jeff McLane

Antonio Adriano Puleo's geometric, bright, multi-colored paintings have many inspirations including, architecture, art history, literature, and poetry. As he creates each artwork, he utilizes his own personal visual language or "index of abstract forms." The geometric two-dimensional structures he creates serve as a connection or "a through line" and "communicate and act as a gateway" from one project to the next idea.

Created specifically for *Step & Repeat*, Puleo painted a site-specific mural measuring 12 x 14 feet. His four small-scale 16 x 12 inch abstract geometric paintings are placed on top and displayed horizontally. The patterns are viewed from both a distance and up close, as the small paintings draw the viewer in to examine more closely and reflect on them. The mural has curved and straight line patterns on a large scale and provides a contrast in scale size, type of lines, and shows another form of interconnectedness between the artworks.



Clap Your Hands, (ATCQ, 1993), 2025

12 x 14 feet

Courtesy of Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery

Photo credit: Robert Wedemeyer

Discussion Prompts.

In Antonio Adriano Puleo's two-dimensional geometric small-scale paintings and the large site-specific mural, the artist is creating his own visual language through abstraction, lines, shapes, and colors. His small paintings are displayed on top of the new mural.

- In the small paintings, how would you describe the layers of geometric shapes and colors? What shapes and lines can you name?
- The artist describes his work as creating a visual language with geometric shapes. What do you think the artist is expressing through his abstract artwork? How does art communicate and create its own visual language? If you were to create an artwork and assign each shape and color a specific meaning, word or idea, what would they be, and what story would you tell in an abstract painting?
- The artist uses bright, vibrant colors, with a limited color palette. Why might the artist have chosen and limited his colors? How would the paintings be different if colors were added or subtracted? Think of colors you like, that have a special emotion or meaning for you or tell a story – what colors would you use and why?
- As you look at the large 12 x 14 foot mural on the wall behind the paintings, notice the type of lines. Compare and contrast the lines and shapes on the mural with the lines, shapes, and colors on the four small scale 16 x 12 inch paintings. How do you think that architecture (buildings and structures) influenced the artist when creating this mural?
- If the paintings were not on top of the mural, how would they look different if they were displayed on a solid light colored wall? Why do you think the artist chose to display his paintings on the mural?

Art Activity: *Patterns All Around Us*

Inspired by vibrantly colored artworks featuring pattern and repetition, you will create a drawing using lines, shapes, colors, and designs.

What you will need:

- Any type of light colored paper, including recycled paper. 8½ x 11" or any size and color available.
- Drawing materials, such as pencils, colored pencils, water-based markers.

Optional: Pens, oil pastels, crayons; a covering for your workspace.

**Please ask a teacher or parent/guardian/caregiver before using any materials.*

Art Activity: *Patterns All Around Us*

Step 1: Place your paper vertically on the table. Fold the bottom edge to the top edge, matching all edges. Then press down to make a crease. Fold the right to the left edges and crease. Fold the paper up from the bottom towards the top edges and press to create creases.

Step 2: Open the paper and flatten it. You will have eight equal sized rectangular sections. You can also create a pattern-filled artwork with the optional art activity below.

Step 3 : Using pencil, colored pencils or other drawing tools, draw straight lines on top of each crease. They can be the same or different colors.

Step 4: Look all around you - use your imagination to come up with different lines, shapes, and colors to create patterns to fill in each section. Experiment with repetition of a geometric shape, different types of lines, and colors.

Optional: You can fill in an area that is free-form using organic types of shapes and then repeat these designs. Use any drawing tools to decorate or add additional marks or designs to each patterned section. There are infinite possibilities when you create your own patterns and designs!

Step 5: On the back of the paper, write a few words, sentences or a title to describe your patterns.

Art Activity: *Patterns All Around Us*

Step 6: Think how you could display your artwork. Would you display it on the wall or maybe fold it into a sculptural form? What other ideas can you come up with?

Optional art activity: Draw an element from nature such as a leaf or tree filling the entire paper. Use a pencil to divide the inside area into as many sections as you want. The sections can be the same or different in size and shape. Next fill each section in with marks, lines, shapes, colors and patterns. Now add the background. Think of the colors of your patterns and how the background can help the patterns stand out. You can use any colors, marks, or additional patterns to create a background, or it can be a solid color.

Optional writing and discussion ideas: Write about why you chose each shape, color and pattern. Which are your favorite and why? What was it like to repeat the same pattern in one or more sections of your artwork? Share the patterned artwork with your class. Place the artwork on your desk and do a class walk-around so everyone can see and discuss the artworks!

Resources.

Terri Friedman: <http://www.terrifiedman.com> | **IG:** https://www.instagram.com/terrifiedman_studio/

Emily Marchand: <https://emilymarchand.com/home.html> | **IG:** https://www.instagram.com/emily_marchand/

Antonio Adriano Puleo: <https://www.antonioadrianopuleo.com/> | **IG:** <https://www.instagram.com/antonioadrianopuleo/>

Cover: *Clap Your Hands, (ATCQ, 1993)*, 2025. Courtesy of Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery
Photo credit: Robert Wedemeyer

Both images courtesy of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs / Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. Photos by Robert Wedemeyer.

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Accessibility

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As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.