

BOO-HOORAY

“Ben Morea: Full Circle, 1964–Present”

Boo-Hooray is pleased to present “**Ben Morea: Full Circle, 1964–Present,**” a retrospective exhibition of paintings by artist, publisher, and political activist Ben Morea.

On view May 25–June 24, 2023 at Boo-Hooray in NYC’s Chinatown, the exhibition features some of the artist’s earliest paintings from the 1960s, as well as selections from more recent *String Theory*, *Tantric*, and his current *Animist* series spanning the 1990s to today. Accompanying the paintings is a full run of Morea’s legendary anarchist periodical *Black Mask*, representing his contributions to 1960s counterculture and political radicalism.

For more than five decades, Ben Morea has been a key figure at the intersection of art and activism. Although his anarchist provocations are well-known, his artwork has only recently started to receive the recognition it deserves. “Full Circle” showcases the recurring symbol of the circle in Morea’s body of work. It is through this elemental form that the artist taps into a spiritual connection with the natural world. Citing the myriad examples of roundness in nature, he has said that “everything, all creation is round.”




The self-taught Morea began his artistic practice in the early-1960s, creating abstract paintings informed by Russian Suprematism, Abstract Expressionism, ancient art, and the mythological and spiritual writings of Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell. He exhibited not only in traditional art galleries, but in occupied buildings and other public spaces.





Inspired by the far-left politics of the 1960s, Morea developed an anarchist political orientation, leading him to reject the art world in 1966 and instead focus his energy on direct action and publishing radical political tracts. He was among the most dynamic provocateurs of the 1960s revolutionary underground to target the culture industry. In the tradition of action-oriented avant-garde movements like Dada and Situationism, he intervened in art, politics, and culture in New York City and beyond. His infamous actions include shutting down MoMA, forcibly entering the Pentagon during an anti-war protest, and dumping the Lower East Side’s uncollected garbage in the fountain at Lincoln Center. Morea, with Ron Hahne, Dan Georgakas, and others, published a short-lived anarchist periodical, *Black Mask*, and later issued a series of mimeograph broadsides and fliers signed “Up Against the Wall Motherfucker,” in reference to a 1967 Amiri Baraka poem.





Finding himself under government surveillance, Morea fled New York in 1969 and lived off the grid with Indigenous communities in the American Southwest. He remained politically active, participating in Indigenous struggles for autonomy. Returning to art in the 1980s, Morea revisited the image of the circle in new series of paintings and works on paper. “Ben Morea: Full Circle, 1964–Present” underscores the continuity in Morea’s artistic explorations and the enduring relevance of political interventions in the cultural sphere.





Curated by Daylon Orr.





“Ben Morea: Full Circle, 1964–Present”
May 25-June 24, 2023



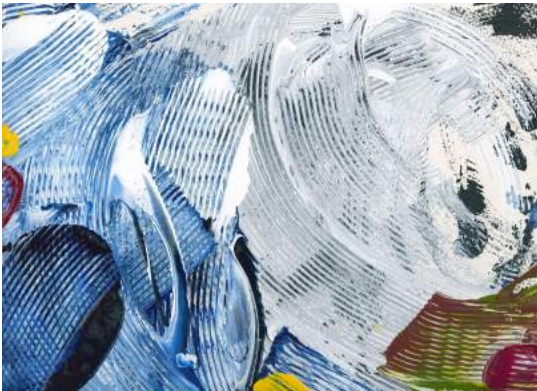

	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Motion in Time/Space</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Motion in Yellow</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Fractured Space</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>





	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Animist One</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Inter-Flow</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>The Nature of One</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Time of One</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>





	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Time of One</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Cosmic Flow with Yellow</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Nature of One</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Orpheus Landing</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>



	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Genesis in Red</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Cosmic Dream Time</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Spatial One</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Time of One</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>


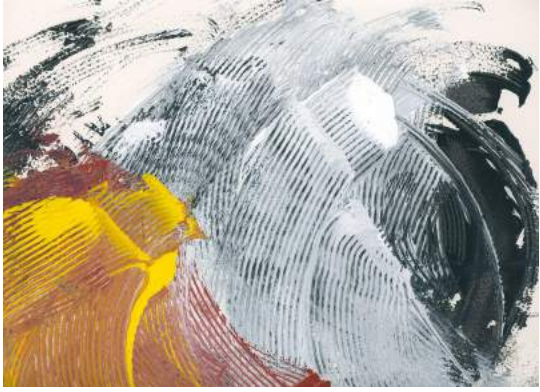

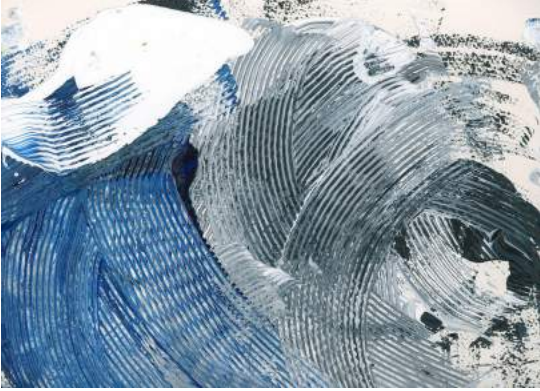
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Creation of One</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Untitled</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Comet in One</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Cosmix</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>



	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Before Time</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Orgone One</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Love Supreme/ Cosmic</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Eye of Horus (Cosmic)</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>

	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Seismic Flow</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Space of Time (Tantric)</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Deep Purple</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Cosmic Spin</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>



	<p>Ben Morea, <i>The Nature of One (Infinite)</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Free Flow</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Animistic</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Motion in Space</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>





	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Motion of One (Time/Space)</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>The Light of It</i>, [Animist series] 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Cosmic Spin</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Seed in One</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>





	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Red Way</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Cosmic Seed</i> [Animist series], 2022. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>A Spiral of One</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>The Blue of It</i> [Animist series], 2023. Acrylic on pressed cotton, 9 x 12 in.</p> <p>\$300</p>




	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Red Eclipse</i>, 1965. House paint on canvas, 56 x 56 in.</p> <p>\$20,000</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Cosmic Flower</i> [String Theory series], 2008. Acrylic and spray paint on paper, 26 x 39 ½ in.</p> <p>\$1250</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Macro-Spin</i> [String Theory series], 2008. Acrylic and spray paint on paper, 26 x 39 ½ in.</p> <p>\$1250</p>

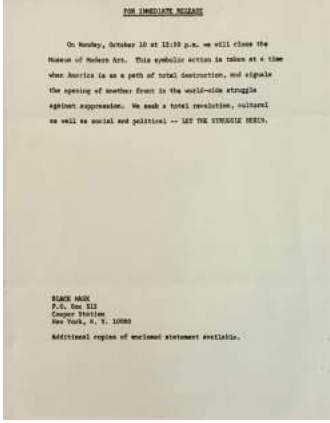


	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Cosmix</i> [String Theory series], 2007. Acrylic and spray paint on paper, 26 x 39 ½ in.</p> <p>\$1250</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Micro-Play</i> [String Theory series], 2008. Acrylic and spray paint on paper, 26 x 39 ½ in.</p> <p>\$1250</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Aero / Blue</i> [String Theory series], 2004. Acrylic and spray paint on paper, 26 x 39 ½ in.</p> <p>\$1250</p>

	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Paradisio</i> [String Theory series], 2003. Acrylic and spray paint on paper, 26 x 39 ½ in.</p> <p>\$1250</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Infinite Two Infinite</i> [String Theory series], 2007. Acrylic and spray paint on paper, 26 x 39 ½ in.</p> <p>\$1250</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Counter-Point</i> [String Theory series], 2006. Acrylic and spray paint on paper, 26 x 39 ½ in.</p> <p>\$1250</p>

	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Untitled</i>, 1964. Spray paint on paper, 24 x 18 in.</p> <p>\$7500</p>
	<p>Black Mask No. 1. Nov., 1966.</p> <p>NFS</p>
	<p>Black Mask No. 2. Dec., 1966.</p> <p>NFS</p>
	<p>Black Mask No. 3. Jan., 1967.</p> <p>NFS</p>

	<p>Black Mask No. 4. Feb-Mar., 1967.</p> <p>NFS</p>
	<p>Black Mask No. 5. April, 1967.</p> <p>NFS</p>
	<p>Black Mask No. 6. May-June, 1967.</p> <p>NFS</p>
	<p>Black Mask No. 7. May-June, 1967.</p> <p>NFS</p>

	<p>Black Mask No. 8. Oct.-Nov., 1967.</p> <p>NFS</p>
	<p>Black Mask No. 9. Jan.-Feb., 1968.</p> <p>NFS</p>
	<p>Black Mask No. 10. April-May, 1968.</p> <p>NFS</p>

 <p>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</p> <p>On Monday, October 10 at 12:00 p.m. we will close the Museum of Modern Art. This symbolic action is taken at a time when America is on a path of total destruction, and signals the opening of another front in the world-wide struggle against oppression. We need a total revolution, militant as well as social and political -- LET THE STRUGGLE BEGIN.</p> <p>BLACK MASK P.O. Box 111 Cooper Station New York, N. Y. 10002 Additional copies of original statement available.</p>	<p>Black Mask, <i>For Immediate Release</i>, [1966]</p> <p>NFS</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Untitled</i> [Tantric series], 1993. Spray paint on paper, 24 x 36 in.</p> <p>\$1500</p>
	<p>Ben Morea, <i>Untitled</i> [Tantric series], 1992. Spray paint on paper. 24 x 36 in.</p> <p>\$1500</p>