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# WIDEWALLS

NEON FORMS



We are living in a time when the language of theory has decisively entered the world of art (read more in Why is Urban Art Inherently Postmodern?). A creative individual is no longer “only” a craftsman, but an artist who is always aware of the philosophical depth of his or her practice. This is especially the case with those individuals whose methodology incorporates sculptural expression and multi-media visual language. We can encounter these instances when it comes to the work of Leo Villareal. The artist is a true explorer of game and chaos -theory. In this regard, the “end product” is embodied as a visual manifestation of the code in light. This represents a core interest for the artist, and the public is able to witness it at Sandra Gering Inc.

Sustaining a significant presence within the art scene of New York, Sandra Gering has managed to create an internationally renowned gallery space. From Soho, Chelsea to the Fifth Avenue and finally to its current location in a townhouse on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, Sandra Gering Inc. has been expanding on the artistically relevant activities. Roaster of artists collaborating with the gallery includes Xavier Veilhan, William Anastasi, John F. Simon, Jr., KAWS and Leo Villareal.

Maric, Bojan. ‘Neon Forms’, *Widewalls*, December 16, 2014.

**SANDRA GERING INC**

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The gallery is devoted to the promotion of both emerging and mid-career artists, as well as managing activities outside the gallery space. During summer, we had a chance to see work by an inspiring group of artists (read more in Strategies of Non-Intention) and in September we had a chance to see a solo show by Marc Ganzglass (read more in Three Buildings, A Fence and A Factory). Currently, we have a chance to admire the sculptural accomplishment by Leo Villareal...

#### Creating Art From Pixels and Binary Code

After acquiring a BA from Yale University and MPS from the Interactive Telecommunications Program at New York University' Tisch School of the Arts, Leo Villareal continued his devotion to work which is in close relation to the newest developments in technology. Most recently, his work was part of a big group show (read more in our article Spaced Out: Migration to the Interior). The artist's practice has a specific focus of building an aesthetics from the simplest forms. In this regard, the work is an exploration of notions beyond the realm of the physical. "The forms move, change, interact and ultimately grow into complex organisms" asserts the artist. Buckyball is Leo Villareal's most recent sculpture which is composed out of 180 custom made LED micro tubes, arranged in a series of pentagons and hexagons. The piece takes on the form of a "fullerene." This was discovered by nanotechnologists at Rice University in the 1980s. The sculpture's name is derived from the name of Buckminster Fuller, the American system theorist and architect. The art piece incorporates elements which have come to be the artist's recognizable language. The installation can be seen at Sandra Gering Inc. until January 10th 2015.

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