

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERIN CLULEY GALLERY

Zeke Williams: *Gather*

August 23 – September 27, 2025

Opening Reception: Saturday, August 23, 5 – 7pm



Zeke Williams, *Chefs Hat Circle*, 2025, oil on CNC carved birch plywood, reclaimed oak flooring frame, 40 in (diameter)

Erin Cluley Gallery is pleased to announce *Gather*, an exhibition of new work by Zeke Williams. The exhibition will debut a series of new pattern paintings by the Dallas-based artist. With their jewel-toned palettes and original geometric motifs, Williams' new works pay homage to the history of ornamentation and pattern-making. *Gather* harkens back to the artist's early career, large-scale work on canvas where Williams utilized bold color choice and composition to extract sculptural qualities from two-dimensional surfaces. The artist's latest series celebrates bold conceptions of aesthetic beauty, with flashy compositions and Williams' honed sense of dramatic flair.

In 2020, Williams transitioned his practice from large-scale spray paint and digitally printed works into landscape painting. Designed on digital software then transferred to a CNC machine, Williams' landscapes are created through complex arrangements of cut wood and overlapping pattern. In the last five years, he has applied this same technique to compositions of bird species, flower still-lives, and human figures. *Gather* marries the abstract compositions of the artist's early works on canvas with the materiality of his environmental works. Williams' pure-pattern paintings take on color gradients and

repeating shapes as their primary subject—under his artistic vision, they are transformed into opulent manifestos of glamor.

The central tenant of Zeke William's artist practice is the cultural value of decorativeness. Inspired by histories of decorative art, camp aesthetics, and artistic movements—like the *Patterns & Decorations* movement from the late 20th century—he challenges social appraisals of craft and design. Similar to fashion and furniture design, as well as textile arts, Williams conceptualizes through ornamentation. Works like *Chef's Hat Circle* (2025) show the artist experimenting with color arrangement and geometric tessellation as a means to enhance our viewing experience. His handcrafted patterns transform their flat surfaces into rich color fields as polished as fine jewelry, but untidy enough to show the artist's hand.

In his latest series of work, Dallas-based artist Zeke Williams refines techniques developed over the course of his career into a collection of pure pattern paintings. Their abstract contents take a back seat to the movement of color and gradient through repetitive visual motifs. *Gather* presents the next evolution of Williams' artistic practice all while honing the artist's cultivated ethos of beauty and beautiful excess.

Gather will be the artist's sixth solo presentation with Erin Cluley Gallery. It will be exhibited concurrently with *Loose leaf*, an exhibition of work by Houston-based artist Lovie Olivia.

For images, please click the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wsvnumuyg9owgdkwe53ku/AF4SOyh2u9gBVYVJgyCcQ6U?rlkey=86g83e4elpeux4c8ffl7csggeg&st=x7okn09b&dl=0>

Zeke Williams (b. 1979) was born in Concord, Massachusetts. He received a BA from the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and MFA from Texas Christian University (TCU). Following graduation, he went on to work at the Angstrom Gallery in Dallas and has contributed writing for Glasstire, an online Texas-based media outlet for arts criticism.

Williams' work has been exhibited in spaces such as The Arlington Museum of Art, North Park Center, and Site 131, and is included in the collections of Toyota Headquarters, UT Southwestern Medical Center, and The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History. Williams has been a participant in both the Joong Boo Artist Residency and the residency at the Sydney Art Space. His work has been featured in publications including The Dallas Morning News, Glasstire, D Magazine, and Arts and Culture Texas.

Williams enjoys musical theater, NBA basketball, drag performances, and sandwiches served on French bread.

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Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging, mid-career, and established artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

In 2014, Erin Cluley Gallery ignited a creative movement in West Dallas acting as a hub for visual arts and community engagement. After nearly five years on Fabrication Street, the gallery has moved its operation to Riverbend – a development in Dallas' Design District celebrating the intersection between culture and commerce.

From April 2021 to November 2024, Cluley opened and operated Cluley Projects – a satellite location in West Dallas acting as an incubator space focusing on regional artists and providing a platform for discovery and mentorship.

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