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Rex Ray, *Thamnolyrica*, mixed media, collage on linen, 72 x 72", 2013

**[PRESS RELEASE, HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES](#)**

***Rex Ray: Luminare***

Turner Carroll Gallery, January 26-February 26, 2024

Opening Reception Friday, January 26, 5-7 pm

Turner Carroll Gallery

725 Canyon Road, Santa Fe, NM 87501

**[See works in the exhibition here](#)**

**SANTA FE, NM – [01.26.24]**

Turner Carroll Gallery has a long history presenting the work of luminary Bay Area artist Rex Ray (1956-2015), and we are thrilled to present the most comprehensive exhibition of his work in our region since his passing. Turner Carroll highlights Ray's most intense decade of painting and printmaking: that from 2003 to 2014. The exhibition features two of the finest monumental paintings of Ray's career, as well as monoprints and works on panel that provide the full spectrum of Rex Ray's artistic practice.

Tonya Turner Carroll, co-owner of Turner Carroll Gallery, says "Ray's brightly-colored, biomorphic paintings are exuberant expressions of the pure joy he found in the act of creating them. His fascination with intense color and shape drew Rex Ray to Santa Fe, where he began a friendship and exhibition relationship with Turner Carroll in the early 2000s. Ray found inspiration in his many trips to Santa Fe, and dreamed of moving his home and studio to New Mexico. When he passed away in 2015, his ashes were placed in his beloved Santa Fe landscape; his spirit will always reside in the Land of Enchantment."

Ray's path to artistic stardom was unconventional. He sacrificed almost everything for his art, believing like Turner Carroll, that art can be transformative not only for himself but also for society at large.

Rex Ray, born Michael Patterson in Landstuhl, Germany in 1956, relocated to San Francisco in 1991 to pursue his art education at San Francisco Art Institute. He took on the moniker Rex Ray as a way of identifying his innovative art practice that pushed the boundaries of materiality, process, and contemporary aesthetic. One of the first artists to use Mac-based technologies as an artistic tool, Ray became well known for his designs for queer nightclubs, and eventually for album covers. Music greats David Bowie, Beck, and The Residents were among his illustrious design clients.

"By the early 2000s, Ray hit the height of his career with intricately designed, biomorphic collaged works on panel, prints, and paintings. He created his own unique process, blending computer design, xerography, original wood block printing, collage, and paper cutouts. The art world is well known for preferring concept over beauty, but Ray remained true to his vision of creating a joyful, transformative experience through his upbeat, beautiful compositions. He became an artistic trailblazer once again, this time not only via his use of new materials to create his work, but by wooing museum curators with the joy and beauty of his work," says Turner Carroll. Rex Ray designed esteemed author Rebecca Solnit's first book, and Solnit later wrote, "He made 'high' art as well as design and then they merged into something gorgeous and extravagant and joyous and very colorful."

The McNay Art Museum *Beauty Reigns*, prominently featured Ray's works. His work was also exhibited at the Akron Art Museum, Berkeley Art Museum, Crocker Art Museum, MCA Denver, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Jose Museum of Art, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Rex Ray is the subject of several books as well as a PBS documentary.

### **About Rex Ray**

"Rex's art correlates closely to that of other artists who seemingly cross over from design or pop art graphics, such as Takashi Murakami or Ryan McGinness. . . From the colliding worlds of art, design, media culture, fashion, and street culture, he has created work utterly of the moment, yet utterly eternal." — Douglas Coupland

## **About Turner Carroll Gallery**

Turner Carroll Gallery + Art Advisors is committed to exhibiting emerging to established museum collected artists from all over the world. Turner Carroll was founded in 1991 by Tonya Turner Carroll and Michael Carroll, both of whom have extensive experience in galleries, museums, and auction houses, as well as degrees in the history of art. Turner Carroll and Carroll have handled artist estates, written artist monographs, served on boards of art museums and foundations, and served as independent curators and art advisors for corporations, hotels, and art museums.

The vision of the gallery since its inception is to source significant artwork of our era from diverse areas of the world. The gallery is constantly considering the new international art movements/developments which presuppose historical significance, and the gallery owners travel extensively to curate exhibitions for the gallery from other parts of the world.

From its opening 33 years ago, Turner Carroll Gallery has dedicated its program to showing a gender and racially diverse group of museum collected artists who address the most relevant issues of our time. In recent years, TCG has curated exhibitions by artists whose prescient work considers immigration, women's contributions to the art historical canon, BIPOC realities, and what it means to live in this world. Turner Carroll is widely known for exhibiting top artists in the world such as French sculptor Camille Claudel, feminist icon Judy Chicago, Chinese-American artist Hung Liu, female street artist—Swoon, Pussy Riot founder, Nadya Tolokonnikova, and Virgil Ortiz, who hails from Cochiti Pueblo but whose work is collected across the globe.

Turner Carroll interfaces with museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA, Whitney, Nasher, Honolulu Museum of Art, Williams College Museum of Art, San Jose Museum of Art, National Gallery of Art, National Portrait Gallery, de Young Museum, National Museum of Women in the Arts, and others to negotiate acquisitions, loans, and exhibitions. Some of the museum permanent collections which feature works by Turner Carroll artists include Russian Academy of Art Foundation, The Vatican Museum (contemporary collection), Irish Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Museum of Modern Art, The British Museum, Nasher Museum of Art, Taubman Museum of Art, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco et al.