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## **DANCE MOVES by CLARK DERBES**

On view: April 1 – May 28, 2023

Opening reception: Saturday, April 1 6-9 PM

**NEW ORLEANS, LA** – Martine Chaisson Gallery is pleased to present *Dance Moves* by Clark Derbes. The artist will be introducing large, newly created works on canvas.

Derbes is most known for his poly-chromed, dynamic wooden sculpture - of which he carves from a variety of tree species including elm, poplar, and maple, before beginning the long process of sanding and painting each form with unique and intricate designs. While there has been much success for this sculptural series and studio process, Derbes has always pined for a broader space from which to create his visions. With *Dance Moves*, Derbes steps away, momentarily, from the meticulous process of chiseling and burnishing complex geometrical planes and patinas, and into an even more expansive and fluid realm.

With *Dance Moves*, Derbes' third solo exhibition at Martine Chaisson Gallery, the artist invites the viewer on a more personal journey, which few have had the privilege yet to witness. The exhibition will include both "roller-paintings" (acrylic on canvas, painted on the ground with a roller brush) and "spray-drawings," (spray paint drawn on Egyptian cotton.) Both series present Derbes' signature abstract designs and were conceived out of the relentless desire to create outdoors. From growing up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to raising kids in rural Vermont, Derbes has constantly been working towards finding balance between true creative freedom and providing for his family. Inspired by farm-stands and roadside sellers, Derbes fabricated an 'art farm-stand' at the end of his driveway where he has regularly displayed artworks of a wide variety of styles, genres, and mediums, successfully selling to collectors near and far through social media. What began as a semi-serious business experiment quickly became a focus in the artist's career. This practice of tending the farm-stand has ensured and encouraged an environment of constant experimentation.

The paintings being debuted in *Dance Moves* express Derbes' freedom of expression and connection to nature. What were once site-specific, outdoor ventures, can now be experienced on the canvas, bringing this personal journey of art making to an ever-broader audience once again. Derbes continues to use pattern, shape, and scale to alter



perspective and space playfully and unexpectedly, even in the single dimension of paint on canvas, or cloth. With a love for working with scale and found objects, many site-specific works were done on streets, some with the participation of community arts programs, or can be seen on the backs of tractor trailers in the 'Truck Drawings' series, in which Derbes returned to an old truck lot over a five-year span with a can of spray paint, and even on a disused highway in Vermont with his toddler (hence 'Stroller Painting.')

He has also worked with the Walls Project out of Baton Rouge and loves to engage local communities in his process.

*About Martine Chaisson Gallery*

Martine Chaisson Gallery is located in the New Orleans' Historic Warehouse District at 727 Camp Street. With an emphasis on quality, the gallery represents emerging and established artists providing a variety of original contemporary art including painting, drawing, photography, and sculpture to enhance both corporate and individual environments.

For more information, please contact Kristen Elizabeth Grant at 504.302.7942 or [martinechaissongallery@gmail.com](mailto:martinechaissongallery@gmail.com).