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Artist Carrie Gillen brings her dynamic hand stretched fabric paintings to Square One Gallery in her solo exhibition "Dream Weaver" in St. Louis, MO.

Her newest body of work focuses on materiality, abstraction, and nuanced color relationships, using fabric to amplify movement and tension.

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Square One Gallery is proud to present "Dream Weaver", a solo exhibition by multidisciplinary based artist Carrie Gillen. The exhibition will be on view from August 8th - September 5th at Square One Gallery in St. Louis, Missouri. The opening reception event will be held Friday, August 8th from 6-9pm CST with the artist present.

Carrie Gillen is a St. Louis based painter and sculptor, redefining the painted surface by fusing sculptural form with vibrant abstraction. Known for her innovative use of fabric, Gillen's work dissolves the traditional boundaries of painting, introducing physical tension and movement within her compositions. Her painted surfaces oscillate between organized chaos, vivid tropical reveries, and moments of technicolor geometry. At times, the material seems to unfurl the imagery with a sense of release; in other moments, it constrains or contains the composition, creating a powerful visual push and pull. This layered relationship offers viewers a shifting experience, one that resists rigidity and invites closer inspection.

"I trap color within the form but allow it to breathe and refract light through the pleated surface. The folds and seams of the surface abstract the shapes laid therein. The final works don't rely on narrative, or easily decipherable imagery, but rather our sense experience." - Carrie Gillen

"Dream Weaver", Gillen's debut solo exhibition with Square One Gallery explores the dynamic interplay between painted gesture and textile form, paying homage to the foundational presence of fabric - a material Gillen returns to for its unique ability to reshape and intensify color, movement, and dimensionality. These works become more than images, they are forms in motion, where undulating planes and chromatic tension come together to explore the relationship between structure and release. The folds in each piece not only manipulate the surface but also shape the way color and light behave, casting real shadows that amplify the illusion of depth. The result is an immersive, tactile viewing experience where paint and fabric speak in unison.

Carrie Gillen received her B.A. from Loyola University in New Orleans and her MFA from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She is the recipient of the Jose Jimenez Public Art Award and the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis Artist Support Grant. She is currently a studio member at Intersect STL a non-profit studio, gallery, and classroom supporting the south side neighborhoods of St. Louis.

Square One Gallery is a contemporary art gallery located in the historic Central West End of St. Louis, Missouri. Established in 2024, Square One Gallery strives to showcase artistic voices while connecting St. Louis to the greater international arts community with a diverse, global roster of exceptional artists. Our mission is to preserve the integrity of the artist as a steward of creativity for generations to come, while offering a knowledgeable collecting experience to guide acquisitions in a fair and open manner. With a robust exhibition program, collaborations, and cultural projects, we are committed to ensuring artists continue to lend their vital talents to inspire and enrich the world.