

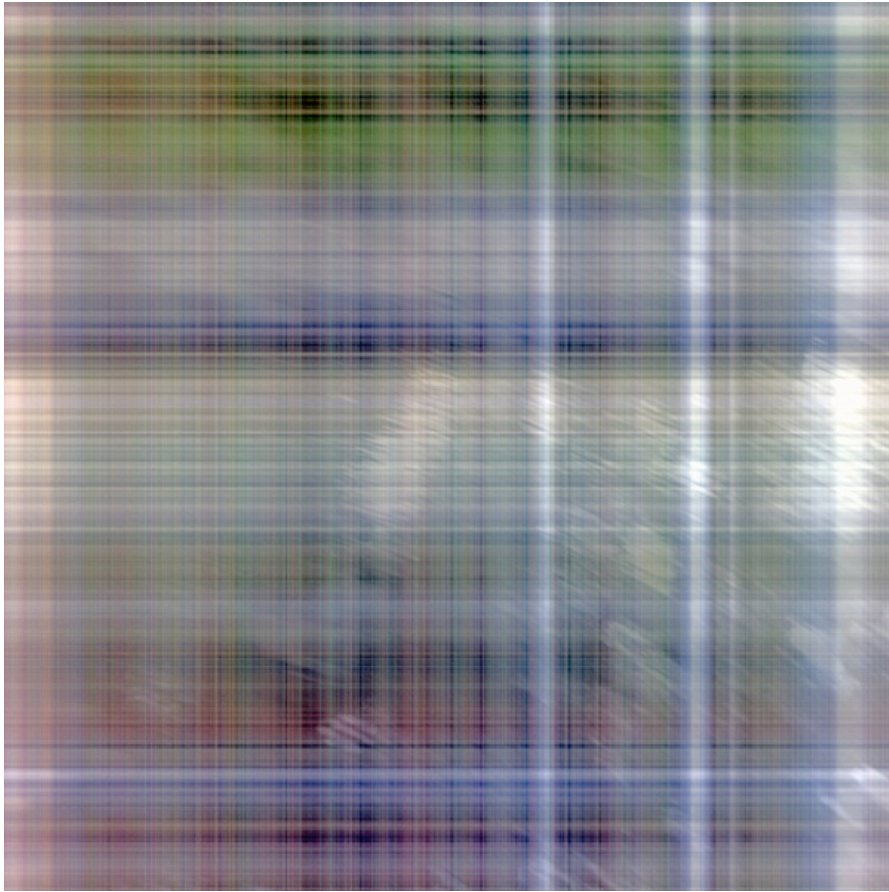
ARTslant **San Francisco**



Watchlist Artist: Penny Olson

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary is pleased to announce the opening of a new solo exhibition by Bay Area artist Penny Olson. Penny Olson's photography-based work is an exceptionally integrated synthesis of the artist's diverse interests and expertise—digital technology, nature, textiles, reductive aesthetics, and process-driven art. Her abstract images infused into aluminum or mounted between Plexiglas are systematically composed using digital drawing tools. Olson samples, extrudes, and overlays pixels from her more traditional photographs of plants and landscapes to create striated color fields of emanating light. The original source from nature is unrecognizable, but it is suggested through the resulting color palette, luminosity, and the artwork's title.

As is typical for this ever-experimenting artist, Olson is using the latest in digital technology to create her most recent work. For the Wildcat series, she took photographs with an iPad while on walks through Wildcat Canyon in Berkeley and used these images as the basis for her digital compositions.



Penny Olson, *Wildcat*, 204-09, 2013, dye- infused aluminum, 33 x 33 inches; Courtesy of the artist and Chandra Cerrito Contemporary

More on Penny Olson (b. 1948, New York City)

Penny Olson’s photography-based work is a synthesis of the artist’s diverse interests and expertise—digital technology, nature, textiles, reductive aesthetics, and process-driven art. Her abstract images are systematically composed using digital drawing tools. She samples, extrudes and overlays pixels from her more traditional photographs of nature--flowers, landscapes, sky, and water-- to create grid-like color fields. Although Olson specifically defines the mathematical parameters that determine the final compositions, she is unable to fully predict the results, allowing chance to be a factor. Olson’s prints can be made to a wide range of sizes and are presented either traditionally, face-mounted to 3/4” Plexiglas, or printed on dye-infused aluminum panels.

Education: MFA, UCLA, 1986. BFA, California College of Arts, 1975.

(Image on top: **Penny Olson**, *Wildcat 204-14*, 2013, dye- infused aluminum , 33 x 33 inches; Courtesy of the artist and Chandra Cerrito Contemporary)