

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Tamarind Institute presents

# WONDER CABINET

Precision and Imagination, a weekend-long Wonder Cabinet, pitched squarely along the borderlands between Art & Science

**Friday April 20 through Sunday April 22, 2018**



(Caption: Six three-dimensional lithographs in the *Ara 244: The Other Ishihara Test* series by Matthew Shlian. Printed and published by Tamarind Institute, 2016.)

**ALL EVENTS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
Supported by the Frederick Hammersley Foundation

*"The true master conjoins the precision of the poet with the imagination of the scientist."*

--Vladimir Nabokov

Albuquerque, NM — The past few decades have seen ever-more fertile interpenetrations between the *arts* and *sciences*, which is to say a return to the way things used to be in the times of Michelangelo and Leonardo, before the artificial division of those realms about three hundred years ago. Thus, to take just one example, **Matthew Shlian**, the first artist awarded the Frederick Hammersley Artist Residency, is as at home fashioning his own paper-folding marvels as he is consulting with microbiologists on protein folding or materials scientists on molecular arrays.

In the spirit of Shlian's work, Tamarind will be hosting a **Wonder Cabinet** in Albuquerque, April 20-22, 2018. Longtime *New Yorker* staff-writer **Lawrence Weschler**, director emeritus of both the New York Institute for the Humanities at NYU and the Chicago Humanities Festival, will curate the weekend of presentations, panels, demonstrations, and astonishments of all sorts.

On **Friday** evening at George Pearl Hall, **Lawrence Weschler** will open the Wonder Cabinet with a lavishly illustrated talk on **Art & Science as Parallel and Divergent Ways of Knowing** (originally fashioned as the keynote for a National Science Foundation symposium). Following Weschler's talk, Tamarind will open an exhibition featuring new three-dimensional lithographs by Matthew Shlian, alongside path breaking computer drawings by Frederick Hammersley from back in the sixties. The opening reception will feature the unveiling of Shlian's newly installed piece in Tamarind's Central-facing window and will then proceed to Tamarind's second-floor gallery. All events are free and open to the public.

The Saturday and Sunday portion of the Wonder Cabinet will take place at the **National Hispanic Cultural Center**, where **Robert Krulwich**, the marvelous co-host of NPR's Radiolab program, will join Weschler as moderator.

On **Saturday**, the Wonder Cabinet will kick off with a celebration evoking the person and art of the eminent late Albuquerque-based artist Frederick Hammersley, a charmingly sly lay-mathematician in his own right, whose Foundation is helping to sponsor this entire weekend. Speakers will include **Elizabeth East**, Director of LA Louver, and **Joseph Traugott**, independent curator and writer, and member of the Frederick Hammersley Foundation Board of Directors.

The second session, *Optical Marvels* will feature incredible room-length photos, prized all over the country, from the travelling Liminal Camera (a shipping container with a pinhole piercing its side atop a flatbed truck) of the Metabolic Studios, based in LA. Director **Lauren Bon**, **Tristan Duke**, and **Richard Nielson** will explain their fascinating program. **Trevor and Ryan Oakes**, the so-called "Perspective Twins," celebrated for their invention of a method for rendering camera-obscura-exact pen and ink drawings, deploying no other equipment than their own two eyes, will then display instances of same. **Blaise Aguera y Arcas**, the TedTalk superstar and inventor of Photosynth, currently a leader in Google's machine intelligence, computer vision and computational photography initiatives, will join in.

The third session, *Foldings and Other Mathematical and Topological Splendors*, will begin with a talk by paper engineer extraordinaire **Matthew Shlian**, after which he will be in dialog with his collaborator at the University of Michigan, chemical engineer and materials scientist, **Sharon Glotzer**, and **David Krakauer**, president and William H. Miller professor of complex systems at the Santa Fe Institute. **Tristan Duke** will return to display some confounding geometric constructs of his own, including hand-etching holographic discs (featured in the recent Star Wars vinyl reissues). **Walter Murch**, all around polymath and arguably one of the greatest film and sound editors in the world today, will Skype in with a slide lecture propounding an astonishing new theory about the origins, placement and function of Egypt's ancient pyramids.

During the lunch break, the Liminal Camera (on site at the National Hispanic Cultural Center during the sessions) will be available for entering and viewing, after which, Tamarind invites participants to come back for *Brain and Cosmos, Dendrites and Decision Trees*. Columbia University neuroscientist **Carl Schoonover** (*Portraits of Mind*) will share his laptop, full of extraordinary microscopic images of the brain, and match it off against those found in the laptop of **Michael Benson**, the maven behind such books of telescopic and space probe photographic splendors as *Beyond, Far Out* and *Cosmigraphics*. Schoonover will stick around to engage with New York-based artist **Beth Campbell**, whose art consists of complex decision trees graphing the implications of her own everyday dilemmas, in a conversation welling out from the question, do we think the way we do because of the way our brains are wired?

Last on Saturday, *Cosmologies: Particle Physics and Native American Worldviews* will feature Taos-based artist **Agnes Chavez**, who is currently an artist in residence at the Cern Large Hadron Particle Collider in Switzerland, with **Greg Cajete**, a Tewa Indian from Santa Clara Pueblo and the director of Native American Studies at The University of New Mexico, in a conversation about Chavez, her work, and its resonances with Native American cosmologies.

**Sunday** morning will start with a session on *Big DATA and its deployments by artists in social practice*. Albuquerque itself, and in particular The University of New Mexico, is one of the nation's most fertile centers for the interpenetration of science and art, and this session will shine a special light on some of the area's most vivid instances, with designer **Alex Webb**, chair of the Computational Ecologies program in the School of Architecture and Planning, and artist, engineer and ecologist **Andrea Polli**, who chairs the Social Media Workgroup, a lab in the University's Center for Advanced Research Computing. **Luke DuBois**, composer, artist, and performer of New York University will join Webb and Polli in this discussion.

The weekend will culminate with a celebration of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, with **Michael Benson**, author of the just released book *Space Odyssey: Stanley Kubrick, Arthur C Clarke and the Making of a Masterpiece*, joined in conversation by Weschler and Krulwich. **David Krakauer** will also present a short related lecture on monoliths through the ages.

This program and some of the particular orderings are subject to addition and change. Tamarind Institute is encouraging those interested to follow developments on Facebook and at [wondercabinet.tamarind.pro](http://wondercabinet.tamarind.pro), as this extraordinary event continues to unfold.

Tamarind Institute is an internationally recognized fine art lithography workshop affiliated with the College of Fine Arts of The University of New Mexico. Tamarind is dedicated to the preservation and advancement of lithography through education, research, exhibitions, and artist residencies, and is credited with expanding the accessibility to and popularity of printmaking among contemporary artists

around the world. Tamarind frequently sponsors programs with diverse populations, locally and internationally, benefitting University, Albuquerque, and New Mexico constituencies. For more information, call 505-277-3901, or email [tamarind@unm.edu](mailto:tamarind@unm.edu).

Images available upon request.

### Speakers (to date, alphabetical listing)

**Blaise Aguera y Arcas**, Inventor of Photosynth and currently with Machine Intelligence, **Google, Inc.**  
**Michael Benson**, Artist, space probe imagery curator, and author (*Beyond, Cosmigraphics, A Space Odyssey*)  
**Lauren Bon**, Vice President and Director **Annenberg Foundation**; Founder, **Metabolic Studio**, Los Angeles  
**Greg Cajete**, Director/Associate Professor Native American Studies, **The University of New Mexico**  
**Beth Campbell**, New York-based artist whose art focuses on complex decision trees  
**Agnes Chavez**, Taos-based artist and artist in residence, **Cern Data Center**, Switzerland  
**Luke DuBois**, Co-Director/Associate Professor, Integrated Digital Media, **New York University**  
**Tristan Duke**, Optical Division, **Metabolic Studio**, LA; Inventor of hand-etched holographic system  
**Elizabeth East**, Director, **L.A. Louver**, Los Angeles  
**Sharon Glotzer**, Department Chair, Chemical Engineering, **University of Michigan**  
**David Krakauer**, President and Professor of Complex Systems, **Santa Fe Institute**  
**Robert Krulwich**, NPR correspondent and cofounder, **Radiolab**  
**Walter Murch**, Film and sound editor (*Godfather films, Apocalypse Now, English Patient*), all-around polymath  
**Richard Nielson**, Optical Division, **Metabolic Studio**, Los Angeles  
**Trevor and Ryan Oakes**, "The Perspective Twins," artists and inventors of novel drafting techniques  
**Andrea Polli**, Social Media Workgroup, **The University of New Mexico Center for Advanced Research Computing**  
**Carl Schoonover**, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Axel Laboratory, **Columbia University**  
**Matthew Shlian**, Paper engineer extraordinaire, regular collaborator at the **University of Michigan**  
**Joseph Traugott**, Independent curator and writer, and Board of Directors member, **Frederick Hammersley Foundation**  
**Alex Webb**, Assistant Professor and Chair, Computational Ecologies, **The University of New Mexico**  
**Lawrence Weschler**, Author and director emeritus, New York Institute for the Humanities at **New York University**

### Locations

April 20, Lawrence Weschler keynote will take place at George Pearl Hall, School of Architecture & Planning, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

April 21-22 Wonder Cabinet at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque.