

Preview

Philip Smith

Magical Thinking

Munich, Germany

June 25 – August 6, 2026

american
contemporary
art **GALLERY**

40 years

Philip Smith

Magical Thinking

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american contemporary art GALLERY is pleased to present *Magical Thinking*, an exhibition of new works by Philip Smith, created specifically for the gallery.

The exhibition brings together paintings in which signs, images, and fragments of memory unfold as part of a larger visual language. Across the surface, lines, numbers, figures, vessels, hands, diagrams, and forms move between drawing, writing, and image. Rather than forming a fixed narrative, these elements remain open — held in a state of movement, association, disappearance, and return.

The title *Magical Thinking* refers to this heightened relationship between image and meaning. It suggests a mode of perception in which symbols are not passive, but carry association, orientation, and belief. Smith's work is informed by visual systems in which signs have long been understood as active carriers of meaning — from early pictorial notations and the symbolic imagination of ancient Egypt to diagrams, maps, models, and fragments of contemporary life. Rather than using these systems literally, Smith develops a language of his own: contemporary, intuitive, and open-ended.

Magical Thinking presents painting as a space of connection. Through pigment, surface, scale, and erasure, Smith creates fields of imagery that appear to shift perception itself, giving form to the structures through which experience is organized: memory, belief, imagination, and the quiet force of images.

Smith's work has been shown internationally and is represented in important institutional collections, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Pérez Art Museum Miami, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin College, among others. He has participated in the Whitney Biennial and the Beijing Biennial; his work was also included in Douglas Crimp's *Pictures* exhibition at Artists Space in 1977.



About the artist

Philip Smith is an American artist based in Miami. After studying at Clark University, he began his practice in New York, where he lived and worked for more than four decades. Since the late 1970s, Smith has developed a distinctive pictorial language that brings together photography, drawing, and painting. Working from an extensive archive of 35mm negatives, his paintings draw upon diagrams, symbols, illustrations, and found imagery, which are transformed through layered surfaces, oil pastel, and erasure. His work has been shown internationally and is held in major public collections in the United States and Europe.

In 2025, the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami presented *Philip Smith: Magnetic Fields*, a career survey and the artist's solo institutional debut. Curated by art historian Robin Clark, the exhibition brought together more than fifty works spanning five decades, tracing the development of Smith's pictorial vocabulary across drawing and painting.

On view at
american contemporary art **GALLERY** Germany

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Selected Public and Institutional Collections

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, CA

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL

Museum of Wisconsin Art, Milwaukee, WI

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, OH

Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL

Bard College Center for Curatorial Studies, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL

The Bass, Miami Beach, FL

Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, FL

Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, Utica, NY

Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA

Morgan Stanley, New York, NY

Siemens Kulturstiftung, Munich, Germany

Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, NY

New York Public Library, New York, NY

Soho House

Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, NY



Public Art Commissions

Embassair Air Terminal, Miami, FL

Miami-Dade County Courthouse, Miami, FL



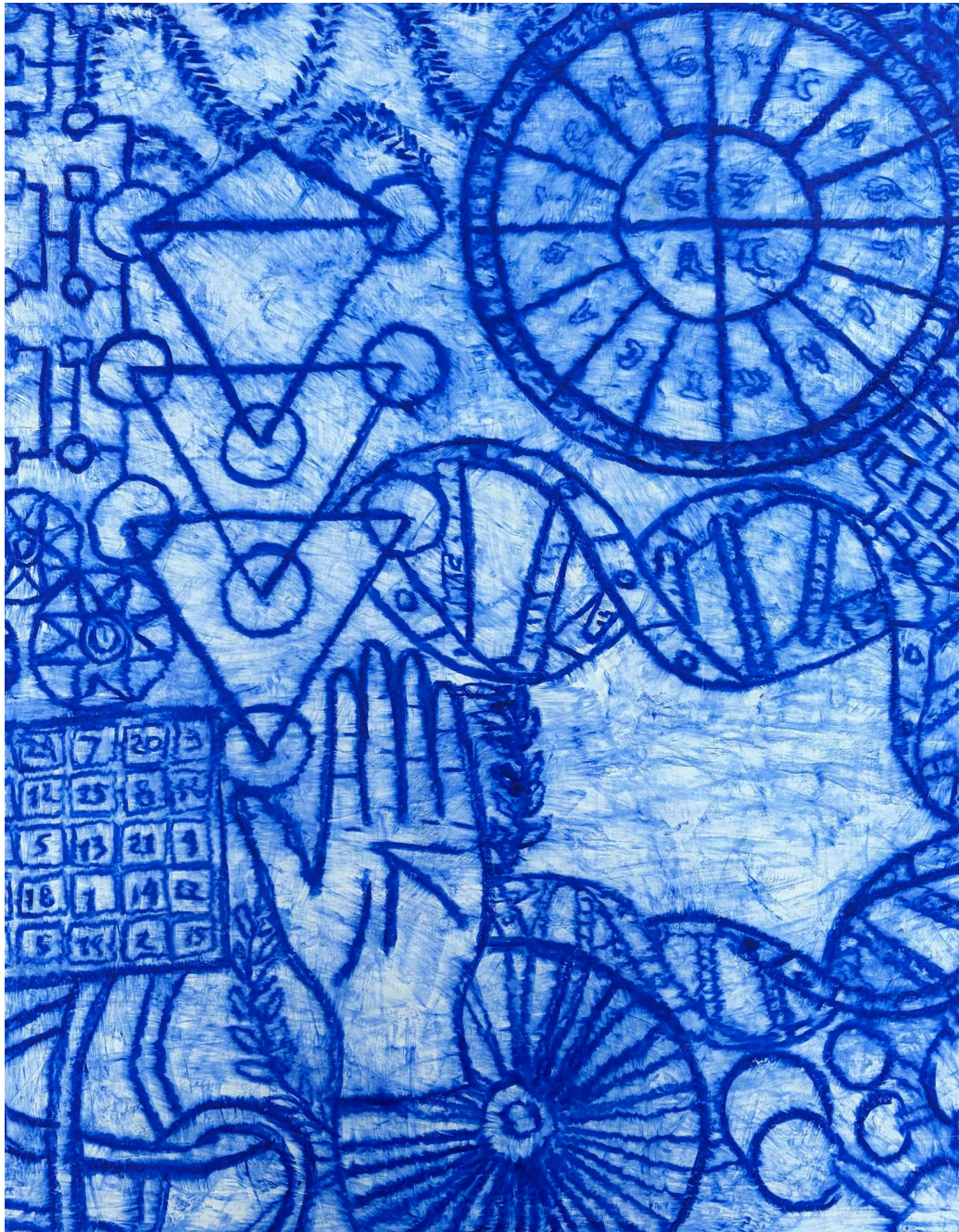
Midnight Clock 2026

Oil pastel on canvas

39 × 33 7/8 inches

99 × 86 cm





Royal Greeting 2026

Oil pastel on canvas

39 × 33 7/8 inches

99 × 86 cm



24	7	20	3
12	25	8	16
5	1	11	4



Access 2026

Oil pastel on canvas

39 × 33 7/8 inches

99 × 86 cm



16	45
4	12
17	8
19	18
23	9



Night Vision 2026
Oil pastel on canvas
33 7/8 × 39 inches
86 × 99 cm





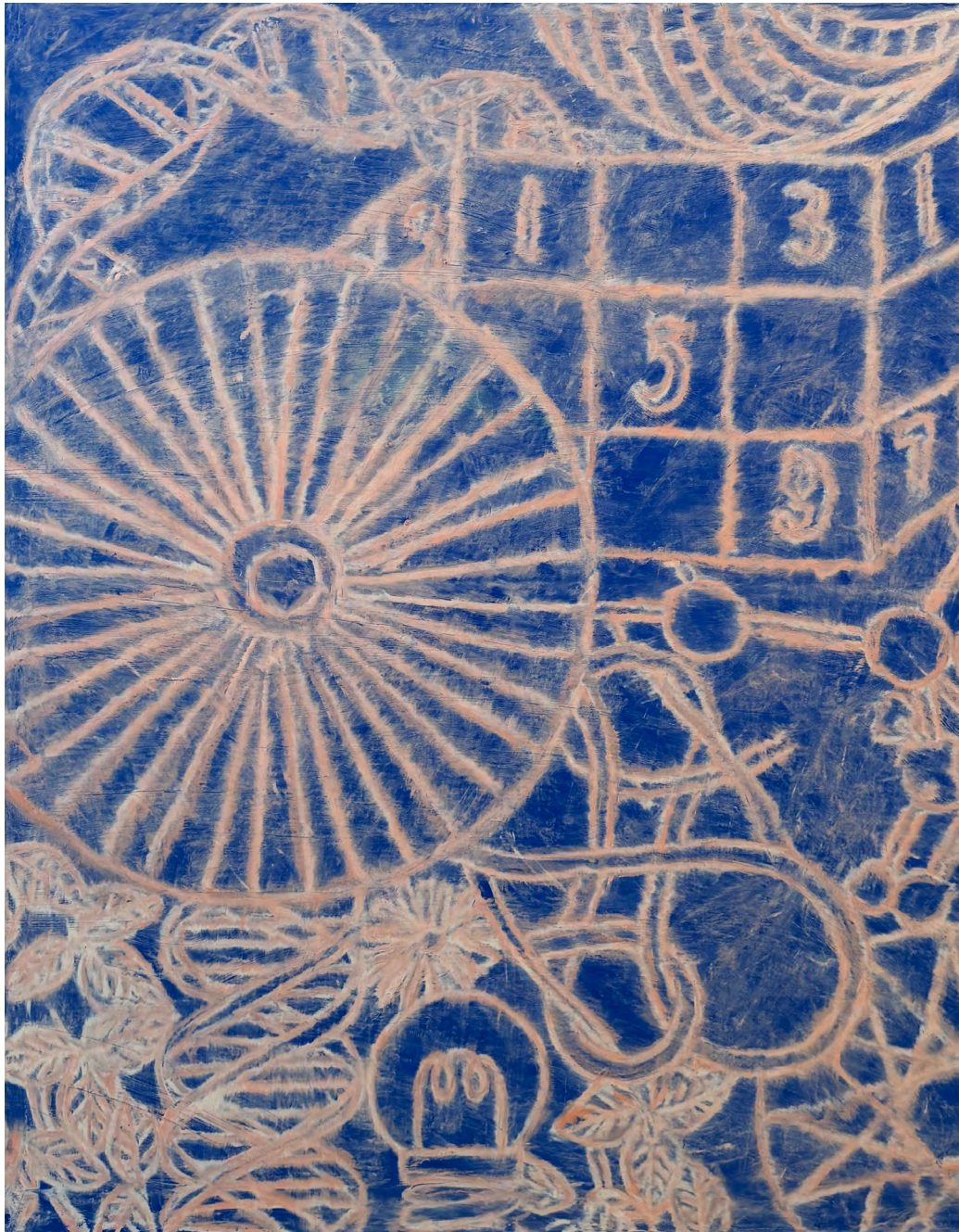
Star Link 2026
Oil pastel on canvas
39 × 33 7/8 inches
99 × 86 cm





Radionics 2026
Oil pastel on canvas
39 × 33 7/8 inches
99 × 86 cm





Dream Land 2026
Oil pastel on canvas
39 × 33 7/8 inches
99 × 86 cm



Gallery Information

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Representing

Sam Francis

The Sam Francis Foundation

Adolph Gottlieb

The Adolph & Esther Gottlieb Foundation

Hans Hofmann

The Renate, Hans & Maria Hofmann Trust

Charles Pollock

Charles Pollock Archives

Jackson Pollock

The Family Collection

Richard Pousette-Dart

The Estate of Richard Pousette-Dart

Specialized in

Norman Bluhm

Willem de Kooning

Grace Hartigan

Franz Kline

Lee Krasner

Joan Mitchell

David Smith

Augustus Francis

Osamu Kobayashi

Philip Smith

Locations



Horn, Switzerland

Seestrasse 32



Munich, Germany

Maximilianstr. 29

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