

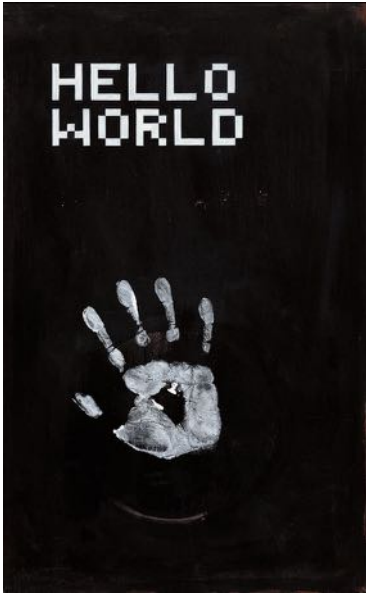
Press Release

Keith Tyson. The Generative Universe

28 May – 16 August 2026

Hauser & Wirth Downtown Los Angeles

South Gallery



Los Angeles... British artist Keith Tyson has long used wide-ranging techniques and materials to explore the permeable boundary between human creativity and the wider forces that give rise to patterns and possibilities across the cosmos. With 'The Generative Universe,' his first exhibition in Los Angeles since 2009, Tyson brings together paintings, sculptures, drawings and mixed media works spanning the past three decades—and makes a powerful case for the universe as a single generative system: a constantly shifting, causal network in which forms arise, transform and dissolve.

Tyson, who originally trained as an engineer, was an early practitioner of generative art, often approaching artmaking as the act of setting parameters within systems he set in motion. At art school in Brighton in the early 1990s, he began to see paint as a programmable material—one shaped by codes of action, chemical reactions and conceptual constraints. Recognizing that he could both paint and code, he created the Artmachine, a programmable device that generates prompts—specifying size, material, subject matter and other parameters—for him to interpret and physically execute. Each work Tyson makes using an Artmachine prompt therefore produces a distinctly unique outcome, resulting in works of radical stylistic diversity. 'Hello World' (1991) is the earliest work on view in the exhibition and his first Artmachine iteration. Its computer-font greeting and stark white handprint on a black background evoke a primordial gesture: a lone signal in the void linking humanity across millennia. Tyson's Artmachine anticipated today's conversations about artificial intelligence by treating creativity not as esoteric or divine but as an exchange between human intent, algorithmic suggestion and accumulated knowledge.

'The Generative Universe' features several Artmachine iterations alongside works from Tyson's other principal series, works that emerge from a combination of natural, chemical and conceptual processes: the Nature Paintings, where chemical reactions and fluid dynamics create their own swirling, unpredictable imagery, and his ongoing Still Life series, where Tyson reimagines the genre through shifting scientific, mathematical and art historical frameworks.



Other works in the exhibition expand upon Tyson's systems-driven vision by employing handmade devices, mathematical fields and electronics informed by principles from physics, biology and computation. 'Everything' (2024), for example, is a sensor driven sculpture that continuously monitors and reacts to its surroundings, embodying Tyson's commitment to an art practice attuned to the interwoven organic and digital networks that govern our world. Together, the works in 'The Generative Universe' function less as representations than as manifestations—participants in the same wider field they depict—inviting viewers to consider the mysterious universal processes through which reality, and our consciousness within it, come into being.

About the Artist

Keith Tyson was born in 1969 in Ulverston, UK, and lives and works between Oxfordshire and London. Tyson attended the Carlisle College of Art, UK, and received his MA in Alternative Practice from the University of Brighton, UK in 1993. Tyson became the 18th recipient of the Turner Prize in 2002. His work is held in the collections of the Tate Gallery, London, UK; Los Angeles Contemporary Museum of Art, Los Angeles CA; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark; and the South London Gallery Collection, London, UK, amongst others. In May 2022, Thames & Hudson released 'Iterations and Variations,' a comprehensive monograph on the artist featuring 400 illustrations and contributions by Michael Archer, Matthew Collings, Ariane Koek, Mark Rappolt and Beatrix Ruf. From May to October 2025, Tyson's largest solo exhibition to date was held at the Serlachius Museum in Mänttä, Finland.

Public Program

On Saturday 30 May, the gallery will present a screening of 'The Generative Universe,' a new documentary tracing the ideas, people and processes that shape Tyson's work. Spanning twelve chapters—from cosmology and ecology to chance and consciousness—the film offers a layered portrait of Tyson's evolving practice. Following the screening, the artist will be in conversation with Ingrid Schaffner, Hauser & Wirth's Curatorial Senior Director. For more information, please visit hauserwirth.com/events.

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Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 6pm

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Caption and courtesy information:

All images:

Keith Tyson

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Artmachine Iteration no. 1.1: Hello World

1991

Acrylic handprint and text randomly positioned on metal plate

61 x 38 x 3.5 cm / 24 x 15 x 1 3/8 in

Photo: Peter Mallet

Chorus

2012

Oil on aluminum panel

198 x 264 cm / 78 x 103 7/8 in

Photo: Peter Mallet

Everything

2024

Stainless steel, electronic and analogue displays,
environmental sensors, electricity

75 x 75 x 75 cm / 29 1/2 x 29 1/2 x 29 1/2 in

Photo: Dawkins Colour

North Atlantic Still Life with Taito Overlords

2026

Oil on canvas

185 x 125 cm / 72 7/8 x 49 1/4 in

Photo: Dawkins Colour