

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

Terran Last Gun
Celestial Observations
May 30 - July 11, 2026

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 30 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Diane Rosenstein is pleased to announce *Celestial Observations*, an exhibition of ledger drawings by Terran Last Gun, a visual artist based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Born in 1989, Terran Last Gun, Saakwaynaamah'kaa (Last Gun) grew up in Browning, on Montana's Blackfeet Indian Reservation and is an enrolled citizen of the Piikani Nation, one of four nations collectively called the Niitsitapi (Real People). This is his second solo exhibition with Diane Rosenstein Gallery.

Celestial Observations presents the artist's new series of geometric drawings on antique ledger sheets, assembled into triptychs and quadriptychs. Featuring vibrant circular forms in a recurring motif of moon phases, sun movements, and fixed luminous star points, works such as *New Realms of Imagination* (2026) bridge a legacy of Leon Polk Smith's *Constellations* (1960-1970s), while grounding modernist abstraction in Last Gun's native Piikani symbolism.

We are also pleased to offer *Magnificent Cosmic Source of Life from Another Human Being Experience*, 2025, the installation of twelve works commissioned by Cecilia Alemani for *Once Upon A Time*, the 12th Site Santa Fe Biennial (2025). This quadriptych of ledger drawings engages with the legacy of spiritualism left by Agnes Pelton and the Transcendental Painting Group, the New Mexico art collective founded nearly a century ago by Emil Bisttram and Ray Jonson. "I feel very connected to what this specific group was doing in the late '30s and '40s, which is pretty wild," Last Gun told writer and curator Jordan Eddy during a 2025 studio visit. "They were trying to capture something that's not easily captured—spiritualism, energy, the other side."

In their catalogue essay for SITE SANTA FE, artist Samantha Manion-Chavez and curator Marina Caron write:

"Made with colored pencil and ink on ledger paper from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Terran Last Gun's vibrant series reimagines the longstanding Indigenous practice of ledger drawing. An emerging artist of Piikani heritage, Last Gun leverages this format to bridge his ancestral past and an interconnected present. By integrating pattern and abstraction into an art form associated with figurative depictions of historical events, Last Gun demonstrates how tradition transforms with each new generation.

...Atop these charged surfaces, he draws crisp, angular forms inspired by myriad sources: geometric abstraction, Piikani lodge motifs, Josef Albers's color studies, and Blackfoot archaeological finds ... As if to underscore the mix of cultural

legacies that informs the artist's practice, cursive signatures and handwritten notations from long ago bleed through his bands of added color—the history of the paper intervening in the contemporary marks.

Beyond their entwinement with the past, Last Gun's work draws strength from his explorations of color, shape, and the relationship between land and the cosmos. His abstract forms can resemble astronomical phenomena—colliding black holes, stellar formations—or mysterious hard-edged shapes, rendered with precision and vividness of hue.”

Terran Last Gun received his BFA and AFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe (2016). He is a recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation 2024 Biennial Award, and was an artist-in-residence at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CA (2023). His ledger drawings were included in *Once Within a Time*, curated by Cecilia Alemani, 12th Site Santa Fe International, NM (2025-2026); *Indigenous Identities: Here, Now & Always*, curated by Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers, NJ (2025) and *Modern Recordings of Ancient Blackfoot Symbolism*, a two-artist exhibition, Anderson Ranch Arts Center (2024), among others. He has received solo exhibitions with Diane Rosenstein Gallery, Los Angeles; Hecho a Mano, Santa Fe, NM; Chapter, NYC; McLain Gallery, Houston; and at Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell, MT (2024); Missoula Art Museum, MT (2023); Contemporary at Blue Star, San Antonio, TX (2021); and IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts (MoCNA), Santa Fe, NM (2020). Drawings are in the permanent collection of The Nasher Museum of Art, NC; Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Chrysler Museum of Art; Harvard Art Museums; Museum of the Plains Indian, MT; IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, NM; and the Bates Museum of Art, Lewiston, ME, among others. Terran Last Gun lives and works in Santa Fe, New Mexico.