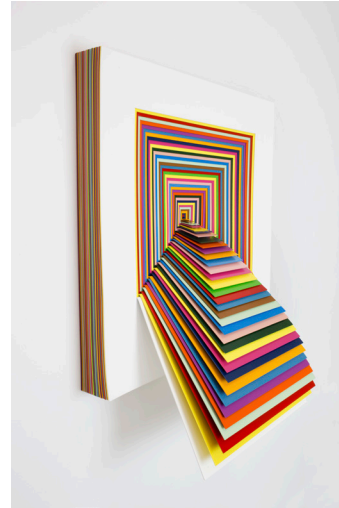


## “Art That Makes You Smile: 5 Exhibitions to See This Summer That Embrace the Joys of Play”

Maria Vogel / June 14, 2019



Jen Stark, *30 Cubed*, 2019 & *Squared*, 2019. Images courtesy of the artist and Joshua Liner Gallery

When summertime rolls around, it brings with it a desire to enjoy carefree leisure. And though museum-going and gallery-hopping may not sound like the most relaxing ways to spend your downtime—while observing art, you’re often confronted with works about heavy topics or important issues—art can have a playful, easygoing side to it, too.

Some of the most memorable art is that which brings a smile to the faces of onlookers, and, this summer, there is no shortage of shows that embrace the power of playfulness. Below, we’ve rounded up five exhibitions by artists who treat play as an integral part of their practice.

### Jen Stark, “Dimensionality” at Joshua Liner Gallery

Jen Stark’s work is a playful examination of color, shape, and optical illusion. In her inaugural solo exhibition with Joshua Liner Gallery, Stark amalgamates the fields of math, science, and physics to bring to life sculpture, painting, and installation works that feel otherworldly and full of intrigue and wonder. Stark takes big-picture concepts, such as fractals, infinity, and sacred geometry, among others, and presents them in a contained, approachable, and fun manner; viewing one of Stark’s works feels akin to staring into the lens of a kaleidoscope. Aptly titled, “Dimensionality,” her forthcoming exhibition seeks to temporarily extract gallery-goers from reality, and provides a refuge of optical illusion where one can enjoy Stark’s visually stimulating configurations.