



# Lamont Gallery Exhibition Archive

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## A Pattern Language

SEAN RILEY, TRACY SPADAFORA + STEVEN ZOLDAK



**JULY 7-AUGUST 7, 2015**

**Opening Reception:** Thursday, July 16, 5-6:30 pm

 Lamont Gallery Phillips Exeter Academy

**A Pattern Language**  
July 7-August 7, 2015

*“...no pattern is an isolated entity. Each pattern can exist in the world, only to the extent that is supported by other patterns... This is a fundamental view of the world. It says that when you build a thing you cannot merely build that thing in isolation, but must also repair the world around it...” Alexander, Ishikawa, Silverstein, et al.*

Artists in *A Pattern Language*\* explore the transformative potential of material through line, pattern, and rhythm. Their work invites us to “make a world” through imagining places near and far, constructing objects, ideas, and systems, and sharing those discoveries with others.

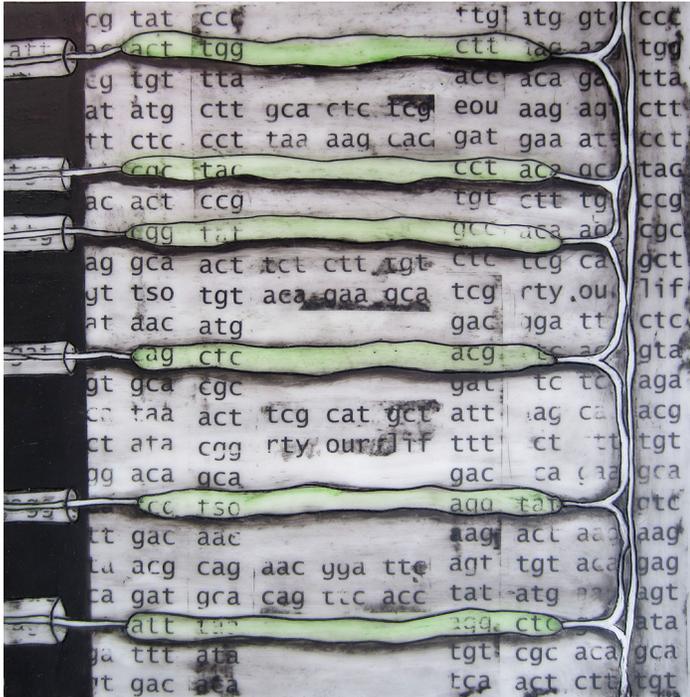
**Sean Riley** works with fibers, textiles, drawing and collage. In his memorial project, he uses pieces of material from his father’s clothing to investigate memory, history, and the way clothing can shield and protect. Riley notes: “Clothing is an everyday, ornamental shield from the elements just as the intention of art is, I believe, to create a metaphysical shield from the mundane and regrettable aspects of everyday



*Shield Study Drawing, Sean Riley*

life. I would like for my work to offer this type of protection.”

Riley currently lives in Providence, Rhode Island and his work has been included in many solo and group exhibitions throughout the Northeast such as the MCLA Gallery 51 and the Bakalar Gallery. Riley will have additional work on display this summer in Hyperintersection at the Pageant in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Summer Faculty Show at the Woods-Gerry Gallery at RISD in Providence, Rhode Island. His work can also be seen at two farm-to-table restaurants in Massachusetts: Mezze in Williamstown and Allium in Great Barrington.



*Bean Therapy, Tracy Spadafora*

Encaustic artist **Tracy Spadafora**, intrigued by the patterns in DNA code, juxtaposes nature’s elegant designs with the human-made landscape. She uses images of actual DNA sequences as the base of her work. According to Spadafora, “The sequences are intriguing to me because they provide both visual patterning and symbolic reference. The sequences of letters represent one universal meaning, the building blocks of life, yet each DNA string is completely unique and mysterious.” In her work she paints over these sequences often obscuring them to address “...a complex and shifting relationship between man, his biological roots, and the shaping of our natural environment.”

Spadafora lives in Westborough, Massachusetts and teaches in the Boston area. Her work has been exhibited throughout the U.S. and is

included in the collections of Harvard University, the Danforth Museum, and Bank of America. Read more about Spadafora’s process and use of encaustic in the Artist’s Magazine article **Some Like it Hot**.

**Steven Zoldak’s** functional pottery, following the rich history of the slip trail tradition, bridges historic patterns with the artist’s own calligraphy-inspired aesthetic. Zoldak lives and works in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He has spent many years working, teaching, and giving daily demonstrations out of his studio. He is the former potter of the Strawberry Banke Museum and each summer he participates in the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fair at the Mt. Sunapee resort in Newbury, New Hampshire.



*Platter, Steven Zoldak*

For more information about these artists, their process, and the work they have in this exhibition, please read the interviews conducted with **Sean Riley, Tracy Spadafora, and Steven Zoldak**.

\* The title of the exhibition, which refers to a classic architectural text by the same name (by Christopher Alexander, Sara Ishikawa, and Murray Silverstein), proposes a blueprint for organizing livable, dynamic spaces and communities.

## Related Links

[Sean Riley](#)

[Tracy Spadafora](#)

[Some Like it Hot - Article](#)

[Steven Zoldak](#)

[League of NH Craftsmen Fair](#)

[Strawbery Banke Museum](#)

[Photos of Exhibit and Events on Flickr](#)