



BOISE ART MUSEUM | 670 JULIA DAVIS DR | BOISE ID 83702 | 208.345.8330 | [BOISEARTMUSEUM.ORG](http://BOISEARTMUSEUM.ORG)

Boise Art Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational, and charitable organization. The Museum is nationally accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Support is provided by BAM members, contributions and grants from individuals, corporations and foundations, as well as grant funding from the Idaho Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

IMAGES | Cover and Inside (Top): Geraldine Ondrizek, *Chromosome Painting II* (detail), 2015, jacquard dye and dye sublimation printed on ultra-sheer and sheer silk, 108" x 360", Courtesy of Geraldine Ondrizek. | Inside (Bottom): Geraldine Ondrizek, *Gene Chip* (detail), 2015, graphite on vellum, 12" x 18", Courtesy of Geraldine Ondrizek.



BAM | BOISE ART MUSEUM

GERALDINE  
ONDRIZEK

FEBRUARY 4 – JUNE 4, 2017

# GERALDINE ONDRIZEK

FEBRUARY 4 - JUNE 4, 2017

Textile artist Geraldine Ondrizek creates artworks that beautifully incorporate and visualize scientific data. She has been a Professor of Art at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, since 1994, and often partners with scientists and researchers in her art practice. Her large-scale works are informed by medical and biological research and explore questions related to genetics.

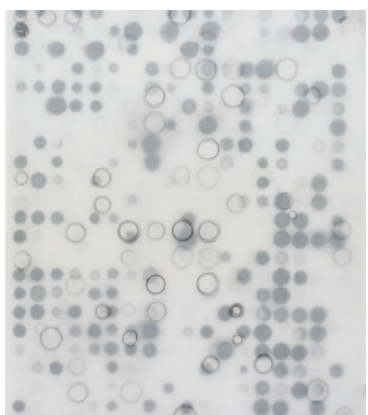
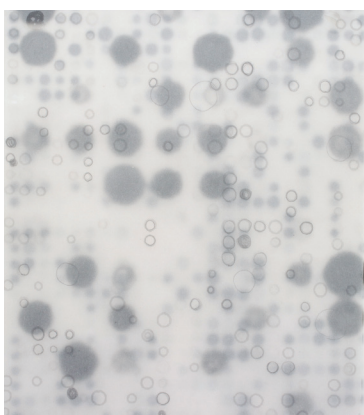
*Organized by the Boise Art Museum*



## CHROMOSOME PAINTING II

*Chromosome Painting II* is the result of a two-year collaboration with researchers in the University of Washington's department of medical genetics. The work is inspired by synteny maps, or genetic linkage maps, which compare gene sequences between species in order to better understand the evolution of chromosomes. Each of the long, colorful silk panels are printed with human chromosome maps, representing diseases that correlate to a specific genetic marker.

The word "chromosome" comes from the Greek *khroma* (color) and *soma* (body). Employing cloth, a medium long associated with domesticity, Ondrizek's installation poetically represents human "color bodies" or chromosomes. *Chromosome Painting II* transforms scientific data into a deeply personal visual exploration of humanity.



## GENE CHIP

In the early 1990s, a team of scientists, led by Seattle native Dr. Stephen Fodor, developed a technique to produce miniature high-density arrays of biological molecules. These are commonly known as DNA microarrays, or by the proprietary name GeneChips®. The human genome contains more than 30,000 genes. DNA microarrays can be used to study thousands of genes at the same time, helping scientists determine which gene is expressed in a specific cell at a specific time. The technology is particularly useful in comparing healthy and diseased tissue and is being applied to cancer research.

In 2015, Geraldine Ondrizek created a series of graphite drawings based on images taken from a DNA microarray. The works elegantly translate scientific data into soft, layered compositions that create a kind of molecular portrait. Although they look completely abstract, DNA microarrays communicate a wealth of knowledge about health and the human condition.