***WAYFINDING:***

**BRUCE CONNER’S MARKER DRAWINGS**

**6 December 2024 – 25 January 2025**

Opening Reception, Saturday December 14 from 3-5 pm.

San Francisco’s Bruce Conner is one of the most important artists of the late 20th Century — pioneering art-making in sculpture, drawing, photography, collage and video. In *Wayfinding*, Hosfelt Gallery brings together a group of exquisite drawings made with “magic” marker between 1963 and 1975that follow just one of Conner’s many aesthetic and conceptual paths.

Drawing was always a central part of Conner’s more than 50-year practice, but the 1963 introduction of the Pentel felt-tip watercolor marker was a game changer. Instead of constantly refilling the nib with ink, the “magic” marker enabled him to draw a continuous line without lifting pen from paper. At first this led to frenetic, hatch-like marks, which both define and veil representational images. By 1965, Conner developed an automatic drawing technique that could be used wherever he was. This method of working involved a combination of curving, straight and zig-zagging lines that never intersected and were so tightly packed the negative space between them was often narrower than the lines themselves. The negative/positive play between the black lines/white spaces creates an optical flicker comparable to the retinal effects Conner contemporaneously explored in his films.

Often psychedelic, these drawings informed the zeitgeist of the “Summer of Love” — energetic, innovative and tumultuous, but at the same time introspective and spiritual. Formally and stylistically varied, some follow Paul Klee’s adage that a line is “a dot that went for a walk,” others resolve into mandalas, maps or labyrinths. They reflect a culture in the midst of change, attempting to break with its past and searching for a way forward, as well as an artist attempting to navigate his course through life.

Bruce Conner's (1933-2008) work has been exhibited in and collected by major museums throughout the world, most recently and completely in the retrospective exhibition and major catalogue of his work, *It’s All True*, which was presented at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid.