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**COSTUMES IN OUTSIDER ART**

**plus BILL BRADY • HANS PRINZHORN • EVERALD BROWN • HECTOR PASCUAL GALLO**



Pink Blue Yellow Whorl, 1990s



### HAROLD GRANUCCI: GEOMETRY

Art Sales & Research Gallery, New York  
June 6 – July 19, 2022

A Connecticut furniture shop owner who turned to making complex geometrical artworks after retirement, **Harold Granucci** created hundreds of dynamic drawings exploring mathematical theories. The works were rarely exhibited before his death but are now beginning to see the light of day. Born in 1916, Granucci was a star maths student in college, and then worked as a small-town accountant before opening his shop in an old cinema.

Receiving a handheld calculator in 1981 – as a gift from the local bank for opening a new account – Granucci found his interest in mathematics was reignited. He began to work on geometry problems that he would solve visually through black-and-white drawings which he created using a technical pen, drafting compass and straight-edged ruler. Told that the finished works, with their intricate, precise, beautiful patterns, had the visual appeal of art, Granucci moved on to using colour pens to further enhance his drawings. This led to some exhibitions of his work at commercial and university art galleries in the local area in the mid-1990s, although the artist always had one caveat: he did

not want to sell any of the labour-intensive artworks.

The exhibition “**Geometry**”, at New York’s Art Sales & Research Gallery, looks at a selection of Granucci’s many drawings. The 1980s black-and-white creation *Swirl from Three* depicts three intersecting spirals that construct a propeller-like form, while *Pink Blue Yellow Whorl*, from the 1990s, presents a large, multi-coloured spiral within a circle. Made with only straight lines that meet, both pieces give the illusion of having been drawn with bending strokes of the pen. Likewise in *Sun II*, drawn in 1995, the back-and-forth build-up of crisscrossing lines and colours construct a radiating circular form, and in the 1990s piece *Nine Planets with Sun, Large* which shows a glowing sun surrounded by smaller, multi-coloured planets. At a smaller scale than most of the other artworks in the show, the nine planets are individually rendered with straight, monochromatic lines to form circles that magically seem to spiral into their cores, with pencil notes surrounding them.

Although originally conceived as mathematical experiments, Harold Granucci’s geometric constructions evolved unexpectedly into works of art. The finely executed, unique drawings should now be appreciated as the eye-catching achievements of a highly accomplished, self-taught artist.

**PAUL LASTER**