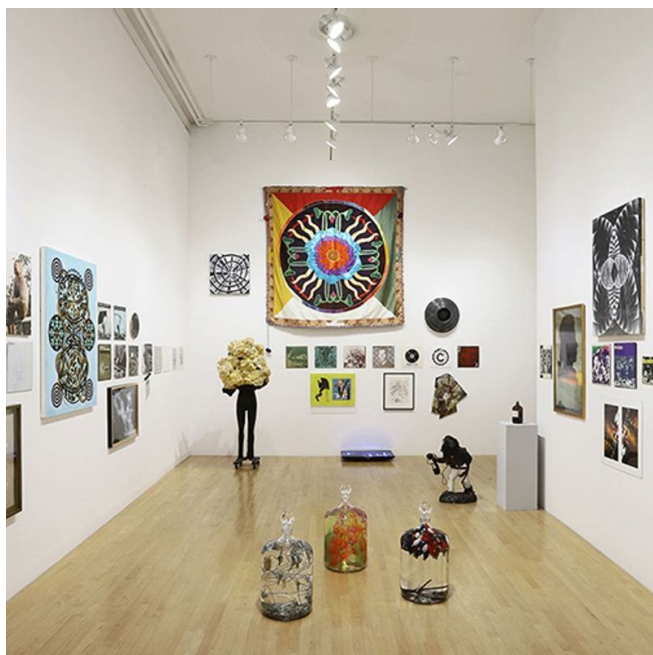


## Stephen Friedman Gallery

The New Yorker  
Strange Attractors  
Andrea K. Scott  
1 October 2018

### THE NEW YORKER

#### Strange Attractors



Photograph: Courtesy Kerry Schuss

The gallery celebrates its twentieth anniversary by closing shop on the Lower East Side and returning to its first home, in Tribeca, with a discovery-studded thirty-three-person show. Subtitled “The Anthology of Interplanetary Folk Art Vol. 2: The Rings of Saturn,” it sprang from the matchless curatorial mind of Bob Nickas, who intersperses art works and album covers (from Alice Coltrane’s “A Monastic Trio” to “The Sounds of Sea Animals”). The latter usher in one of the show’s thematic motifs: the Golden Disc, which was sent into space on NASA probes to introduce aliens to the culture of Earth, mostly through music. Artists whose work implies auditory theatrics (Tony Conrad, Lonnie Holley, Dave Muller) are balanced by those with psychedelic or astral concerns (Lisa Beck, Helen Rae, Richard Tinkler). Of special note

are the New York-based Ugandan Leilah Babirye, whose abstracted, embellished wooden figure could hold its own with a Jack Whitten totem, and the L.A.-based phenom Lazaros, whose mixed-material potions—Canal Street finds submerged in oil and handsomely encased in glass—split the difference between found-object sculpture and magic spell.