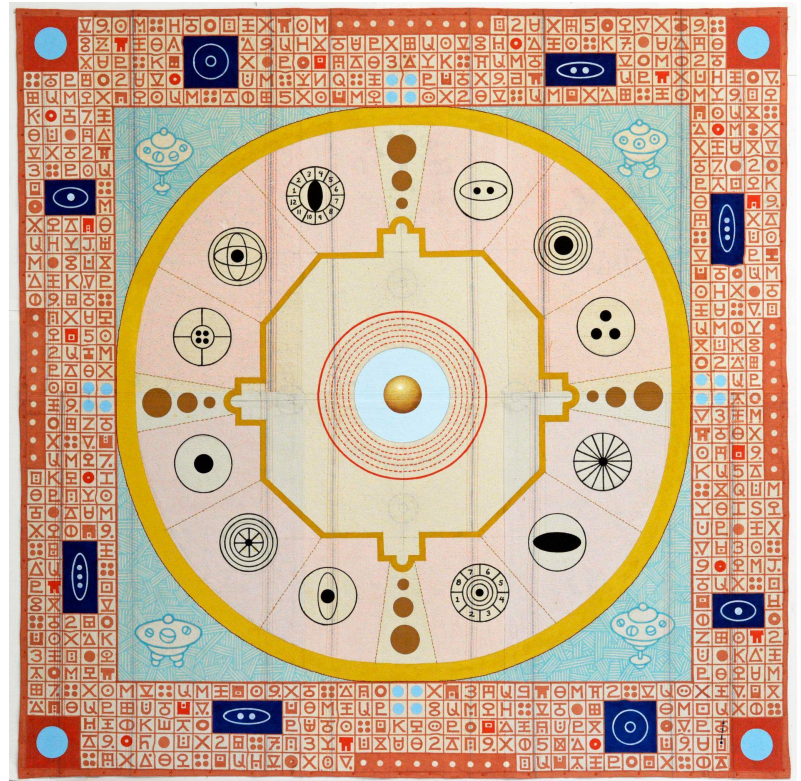


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ART

Karla Knight

“Road Trip” is a somewhat misleading title for this American painter’s new show: her mind is on intergalactic, not cross-country, travel. (That being said, stretches of empty roads do seem to attract U.F.O. sightings.) Knight’s vibrant, mandalic drawings, paintings, and tapestries reflect her fascination with the paranormal, at least as an organizing principle. They incorporate an extraterrestrial language of her own invention, which evokes both ancient writing



systems and modern sci-fi symbology. Hilma af Klint’s ecstatic representations of spiritual dimensions loom large in Knight’s work, and the two women share an interest in the conceit of artist-as-channeller. Knight’s “Wheel,” from 2022—with its pastel palette, orrery-like structure, and central golden orb—is especially af Klintian, imbued with a kindred creative passion. On a rough surface of vintage cotton seed bags, Knight pairs embroidered lines with richly pigmented areas, achieving a weathered and handwrought effect that is every bit as compelling as her more hard-edged imagery.

— Johanna Fateman