

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**GALLERY of FUNCTIONAL ART**  
**LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY**

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**CHRIS FRANCIS**

**“Open Floor Plan: Wearable Architecture  
and Functional Design”**

**November 19 through January 8, 2017**  
**Opening Reception, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 6-9pm**



“The Rietveld”, Size 7, wood and leather

The Gallery of Functional Art presents “Open Floor Plan: Shoe Attempts Toward Wearable Architecture and Functional Design” by artist and designer Chris Francis.

For this collection many of the shoes will focus upon features of interior design and architecture. Right angles are not typically used in shoe making. The human foot is an organic form with complex curvature capable of advanced motion therefore making straight-line architecture quite a difficult solution.

These sculptural objects are successful models and proto-types, each a visible thought process. They stand as a question to the viewer "Why does

every shoe need to be comfortable? Why does every shoe need to compare to those seen in shoe stores? Can a shoe just exist as a concept and as a work of art alone?

Furniture designer and architect Gerrit Rietveld's "Sideboard" inspired Francis's piece "The Rietveld". The shoe "fails" to become an instrument of function that provides comfort and stability for your foot, but instead offers the visual potential to become a functional piece for the imagination.

The shoe was never designed to be worn, it's strictly a visual, architectural representation of a concept; the idea being "Right angles even if they are wrong." His greatest successes are the ultimate failures in the traditions of shoe making.

Chris Francis has exhibited a solo show at the Craft & Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles. He has taken part in the Palm Springs Art Museum for its Killer Heels Exhibition, and most recently, he exhibited his Brutalist collection at the Architecture + Design Museum in L.A.