



PRESS RELEASE

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**LARGER THAN LIFE:
DVAC Showcases Large-Scale Drawings of Four Prominent Midwest Artists**

DAYTON (January 6, 2015) – The Dayton Visual Arts Center (DVAC) presents *Gesture Control*, featuring four Midwest artists working in charcoal, graphite, painted wood and Plexiglas constructions. The exhibition is curated by Patrick Mauk, DVAC’s Gallery Manager, and opens January 15th and runs through February 27th, 2016.

The artists featured in *Gesture Control*, Wesley Berg, Tyler Bohm, William Potter and Shelby Shadwell, each utilize the creative process in very different ways, but the end results showcase their craftsmanship and the unique quality of each artists’ hand.

“Drawing is one of the oldest and most respected expressive technical skills,” states Mauk. “It’s the beginning of the creative process, from cavemen to contemporary art. Drawing has significance throughout art history as a means of capturing a moment, conveying a place in time or showing physical movement or spiritual essence.”

“Noted artists known for their exceptional facility in drawing include Leonardo da Vinci, (Italian, 1452-1519); Rembrandt van Rijn, (Dutch), 1606-1669); and Chuck Close (American, 1940). Like these masters, these four artists are all working through drawing, either as a starting point to paintings or sculptures, or they elevate the process to create finished works of art,” Mauk adds.



Wesley Berg’s work focuses on the relationship between humans and the natural world in a society that is constantly pushing us away from nature and towards modernity and technology. He is inspired from his own experiences traveling to remote places, hiking, and trail running.

In addition to the inclusion of the works in the exhibit, DVAC will also unveil a new site-specific mural, *Landfell*, by Berg in DVAC’s Fountain Gallery. The mural will be similar to works included in the exhibit, focusing on our human presence in the natural world and will be on long-term view.

PHOTO: Wesley Berg in his studio photo credit: Bill Franz

Berg received his BFA from Miami University and his MFA from the University of Florida. He currently teaches part-time at the University of Dayton.

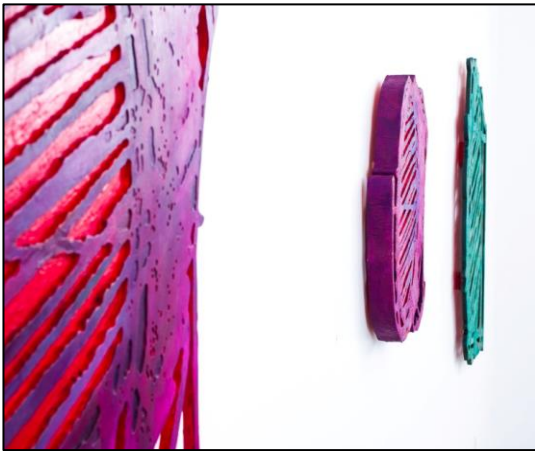


Tyler Bohm's Plexiglas works suggest the hypothetical progression of artificial intelligence. He uses Computer Aided Design (CAD) programs and a laser cutter to create plastic components that are painted to create the large wall sculptures.

"My work serves as a form of creative future studies, a speculation about the imminent that draws on science fiction narratives and past eras' visions of the future," says Bohm. "A unifying theme in my work has been the attempt to re-imagine this evolving technological landscape through a futuristic visual vocabulary."

Bohm received his BFA from Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio.

PHOTO: Tyler Bohm, Peripheral Visionary I: Portrait of Neal Stephenson, 2014, acrylic on wood & Plexiglass, 35 x 23 x 1 in.



William Potter's constructed paintings begin with an old sketchbook drawing that is scanned, photocopied, morphed, and through use of the computer, sent to a CNC router where shapes are milled out of plywood. The cutouts move back to the studio where he paints, scrapes and repaints them, until the final product is produced.

Potter received his BFA from the Columbus College of Art and Design and his MFA from the University of Cincinnati. He is currently an Associate Professor at the Herron School of Art and Design, Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis.

PHOTO: William Potter, installation view of Hidden Forms Embedded Meanings, 2014



Shelby Shadwell's large scale drawings explore the visual tensions between representation and abstraction. The subject matter of the drawings explores disposability, decay and, most notably, repulsion (trash bags, diapers, roaches) but the resulting imagery is sumptuous and attractive for the viewer.

"My work fits into the ongoing dialogue that elevates the mundane, the ephemeral, or the vulgar to a higher status," states Shadwell. "The figures in my work are an attempt to both create and destroy what is monstrous to me."

PHOTO: Shelby Shadwell working on Auniversal Picture, 2014, charcoal, 96 x 80 in.

Gesture Control is sponsored by Exhibition Partner Amelia Hounshell & Brian Albrecht, and Education & Public Program Sponsor Susanne Scherette King & Michael Peters.

A Collectors' Preview will be held for DVAC Collector-level Members and Sponsors on January 15th from 5-6 p.m. The Opening Reception is free and open to the public and will be held that same day from 6-8 p.m. A Gallery Talk, featuring lectures and Q&A's with the four featured artists, will be held February 25th at 6:15 p.m. at DVAC.

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ABOUT DVAC

The Dayton Visual Arts Center (DVAC) helps sustain the arts community by providing a place to show, market, and sell work and also helps satisfy the needs and wants of art-lovers who have a place to see artists' work and, often, meet the artists. At its core, DVAC advances art for the community and a community for artists.

DVAC receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council, Culture Works, Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District, The Dayton Power & Light Foundation and the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation. Community Partner Members include Houser Asphalt & Concrete, LMG-Lunne Marketing Group, LWC Inc., Mousaian Oriental Rugs , Premier Health, Square One Salon & Spa and members.

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Gallery Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday
Closed Sunday & Monday | 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on First Friday