



## PRESS RELEASE

### Contact

Eva Buttacavoli, Executive Director  
(w) 937/224.3822  
(c) 937/694.9374  
[ebuttacavoli@daytonvisualarts.org](mailto:ebuttacavoli@daytonvisualarts.org)

## New Dayton Visual Arts Center Exhibition Features Three Women Artists' Exploration of Their Identity

DAYTON (January 6, 2017) – Dayton Visual Arts Center (DVAC) is pleased to present *The Secrets We Keep: New Works by Zoe Hawk, Ashley Jonas & Stephanie McGuinness*, opening January 13<sup>th</sup> and running through February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

This exhibition consists of paintings, prints and installations and each of the three artists represented in the show use their art to explore their identity in the realm of private and public spaces.



### Ashley Jonas

Ashley Jonas' work is about the search for moments of wonder and beauty. By paying attention to the overlooked, monumental discoveries of tenderness, peculiarity and harmony between objects, flowers and the spaces we construct for ourselves are documented, composed and abstracted. These actions result in playful paintings and improbable sculptures.

Jonas was born in Key West, Florida and lives and works in Dayton. She received her master's degree of fine art in ceramics from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a bachelor's degree of fine art in ceramics from University of Florida, Gainesville. Ashley and her husband run The Blue House Art Gallery and Studios in Dayton.

*Left: Ashley Jonas, Construct Painting I, 2016, mixed media installation, 48 x 84 x 24 in.*



### Zoe Hawk

Zoe Hawk's work explores issues of girlhood and coming-of-age experiences, often referencing children's storybook illustration. The constructed narratives of her paintings are meant to be sweet and somewhat familiar to the viewer, yet upon closer inspection they take a slightly mysterious or unsettling turn.

Hawk was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1982 and currently lives in Doha, Qatar. She received a master's degree of fine art in painting from the University of Iowa, and a bachelor's degree of fine art in studio art from Missouri State University. Zoe has attended several artist residencies including Frans Masereel Centrum (Belgium), Kunstnarhuset Messen (Norway), Women's Studio Workshop (Rosendale, New York), and is currently a resident at the Fire Station Artist in Residence program (Doha, Qatar).

*Above: Zoe Hawk, Rite of Passage, 2014, oil on aluminum, 17 x 19 in.*



### **Stephanie McGuinness**

Stephanie McGuinness' paintings examine the pressures on contemporary suburban America through the environment of a single multi-generational house. This collection's narrative is based on discarded notes and lists found in public spaces and explores how external pressures and life events intrude into personal environments. In her paintings, viewers are granted access to private spaces, but hover slightly outside of the frame, unconnected to its inhabitants. The surface of the paint is rough and sometimes transparent to signify the painting process itself, as well as to reflect on how dwellings leave traces of their past as they continue to evolve.

McGuinness is a Dayton native who currently resides in Englewood. She received a bachelor's degree of fine art from Wright State University in 2008 and studied at Miami University, receiving master's degree in fine art in 2013.

*Above: Stephanie McGuinness, The Storyteller, 2016, oil on canvas, 42 x 48 in.*

The artists for this show were selected through the 2014 Biennial Call for Exhibitions, juried by Jason Franz, Founding Executive Director & Chief Curator, Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center, Cincinnati; John Kortlander, Professor, Drawing & Painting, Columbus College of Art and Design and 2012 DVAC Biennial Call Artist; and Liz Maugens, Co-Founder & Director, Zygote Press, Cleveland.

The Exhibition Partners for this show are Amelia Hounshell and Brian Albrecht. The Education & Public Program Sponsor is Dr. Robert L. Brandt, Jr.

For more information about the exhibition, or DVAC, visit [www.daytonvisualarts.org](http://www.daytonvisualarts.org), follow DVAC on Facebook (Dayton Visual Arts Center), Twitter (@DaytonVisArtCtr) and Instagram (daytonvisualartscenter).

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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, and members.

2016-17 Corporate Members: Houser Asphalt & Concrete, LMG-Lunne Marketing Group, LWC Inc., Premier Health, Square One Salon & Spa.

DVAC25 Season Partners: Premier Health, Lou and Steve Mason, Betsy and Lee Whitney, Linda Lombard, Kathy and John Emery, and Pam and George Houk.

### **Also On View:**

*Landfell* | a site-specific mural by Wesley Berg

*Tiny Office Show: New Work* by Yasue Sakaoka

*Dayton Printmakers Cooperative Spotlight: Megan Brandewie*

**Dayton Visual Arts Center | 118 N. Jefferson St. | Dayton, OH 45402**

**937. 224.3822 | [www.daytonvisualarts.org](http://www.daytonvisualarts.org) | [dvac@daytonvisualarts.org](mailto:dvac@daytonvisualarts.org)**

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