



PRESS RELEASE

Contact
Eva Buttacavoli, Executive Director
(w) 937/224.3822
(c) 937/694.9374
ebuttacavoli@daytonvisualarts.org

Dayton Visual Arts Center Launches 2018-2019 Season - Season opens with Joel Whitkaer:*When Things Go Missing*, and is presented in conjunction with the FotoFocus Biennial



DAYTON (August 23, 2018) - The Dayton Visual Arts Center (DVAC) presents *When Things Go Missing*, an exhibition featuring works by DVAC member-artist Joel Whitaker, opening September 7 and running through November 3.

When Things Go Missing is a series of color and black and white photographs capturing a complex collage of objects, ephemera and landscapes that record or allude to themes of memory and loss. The exhibition is presented in conjunction with the FotoFocus Biennial taking place October 4–7, 2018. The Biennial is a photography initiative that encompasses more than 90 projects at museums and galleries across Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Dayton, and Columbus, and features more than 200 artists, curators, and educators—and is the largest of its kind in America.

An opening reception for *When Things Go Missing* will be held on September 7 from 6-8 p.m. and a gallery talk by the artist will be presented on September 20. There will also be an Open House on October 3 for area high school and college photography students at which they will be introduced to the myriad of workshops and events happening throughout the region as part of the FotoFocus Biennial.

When Things Go Missing is presented in four sections; each representing a certain passage of time. The first section, *Spaces Between* (2013-2015), is inspired by a series of tornados in the American South that all occurred in a single day. Witnessed but not experienced, Whitaker set out to document things lost.

The second, *In Memoriam* (2015-2017), is a collection of images inspired by the loss of Whitaker's parents. More specifically, it is a study of the ornate flowers and decorations left after funerals and other memorials.

The third section, *Dirt and Air* (2016-2017), explores the space, literally, where dirt and air meet. We stand on the ground or dirt and we breathe the air that meets it.

The final section, *Shovels* (2017), contrasts the abstract nature of the previous groupings with a very literal collection of images of shovels. This is indented to ground viewers. *Shovels* is a blank canvas for the audience's imagination to run wild.

This exhibition is accompanied by a catalog of the same name, featuring 22 black and white and full color photographs. The catalog includes an introduction written by Executive Director of the Dayton Visual Arts Center, Eva Buttacavoli, and a curator statement by University of Dayton Assistant Professor of Photography Glenna Jennings.

About Joel Whitaker

Joel Whitaker is an artist and professor of photography at the University of Dayton. He received BFA from the University of Montevallo, AL and MFA from Florida State University, Tallahassee. Working in photography for 30 years, Whitaker has been selected to participate in a NEH funded re-photographic survey of FSA photographs of Ohio; was selected for inclusion in *Photography Now/One Hundred Portfolios – An International Survey of Contemporary Photography*; and was highlighted in the *Elements of Photography*. He has exhibited his work throughout the US, is featured in several public collections, and has received a multitude of state, regional and university grants.

For more information about DVAC or *When Things Go Missing*, visit www.daytonvisualarts.org, and follow DVAC on Facebook (Dayton Visual Arts Center), Twitter (@DaytonVisArtCtr) and Instagram (daytonvisualartscenter).

###

ABOUT DVAC

The Dayton Visual Arts Center (DVAC) provides art for the community and a community of artists. 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 annual operating support from the Ohio Arts Council, Culture Works, Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District.

Dayton Visual Arts Center | 118 N. Jefferson St. | Dayton, OH 45402
937. 224.3822 | www.daytonvisualarts.org | dvac@daytonvisualarts.org

Summer Gallery Hours (Through September 1, 2018):

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Closed Sunday & Monday