

62nd Mid-States

Art Exhibition



EVANSVILLE MUSEUM

ARTS | HISTORY | SCIENCE

62nd Mid-States

Art Exhibition

December 14th, 2024 - March 23rd, 2025

Made possible through the generous support of the



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Museum Purchase Award Donors

Dorothea Schlechte Memorial Purchase Award

Presented by John and Konnie Schlechte

Thelma Karges Memorial Purchase Award

Caroline Karges Memorial Purchase Award

Gail Cook Karges Memorial Purchase Award

Presented by a Friend of the Museum

Jim and Ana Ward Memorial Purchase Award

Presented by Margaret Dennis

Museum Members Purchase Award

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Museum Merit Award Donors

Museum Members Merit Award

Presented by Patricia Mitsos and
Mary S. and David A. Bower

Juror's Statement

Regional exhibitions highlighting artistic talent, fostering community, and promoting exchange with the larger art world are essential as artists increasingly choose to practice peripheral to the art centers. Many curators, including myself, work to democratize access to the curatorial process and diversify art dialogues by engaging artists in communities and regions across the US. The opportunity to act as the juror for Evansville Museum's 62nd Mid-States Art Exhibition is a great pleasure and a form of research that exposes me to a new network of artists.

The artists selected express the diversity of medium, subject matter, and positionality in this expansive region. The paintings range from magical realism to unsettling landscapes, like Sarah Williams' hyper-realistic paintings of northern Missouri homes lit up from within during the hazy hours before dark, like an apparition from childhood frozen in time. Natalie Baldeon's paintings embody the psychological isolation experienced as a first-generation American and new parent. In greys and browns, Alexandra Sophia Franz's miniature paintings capture the banality of daily life with intoxicatingly loose brushstrokes. The drawings capture life on a micro and macro scale, such as Brigid O'Kane's microscopic networks and Laurin Notheisen's park landscapes. The prints take on a contemporary perspective of mythological scenes, like in Brett Anderson's Riddles of the Sphinx. The sculpture is architectural to absurd, like CJ Escobar Rodgers' abstract orange ceramic figure with a nose, ears, piercings, and feet topped with troll fur.

The talent abounds in the mid-states, and I am excited by what the region offers. My gratitude goes to Cheyenne Miller, curator of art, and the generous donors of the numerous artist awards. Supporting the arts is critical to building culture, which is central to humanity. Most of all, I'm grateful to the artists who offered me a glimpse into the thriving creativity of mid-America.

Lauren R. O'Connell

Curator of Contemporary Art

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art

About the Juror

Lauren R. O'Connell is a curator, writer, and educator focusing on contemporary art. O'Connell received her B.A. in Classics and Art History from the University of Arizona and her M.A. in Curatorial Practice from the California College of the Arts. She is currently the curator of contemporary art at Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) in Arizona. O'Connell previously held positions at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in the Architecture and Design Department and UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.



Her curatorial practice is rooted in artist-centric projects that expand and challenge artistic medium, critical dialogue, relational experiences, and art historical canons. She has worked on special projects with artists including Tarek Atoui, Kristin Bauer, Diedrick Brackens, York Chang, Mimi O Chun, Martin Soto Climent, Otobong Nkanga, Kameelah Janan Rasheed, Jean Shin, Anna Tsouhlarakis, and Qiu Zhijie. O'Connell's research positions contemporary art as an avenue to examine social reality through epistemological examination, speculative and historical (re)formations, mythology, and constructed environments.

Purchase Award Winners:



Sarah Williams, **Aster Drive**
Oil on panel, 18 x 30 inches
Springfield, MO



**Dorothea Schlechte Memorial Purchase Award
Thelma Karges Memorial Purchase Award
Caroline Karges Memorial Purchase Award
Gail Cook Karges Memorial Purchase Award
Museum Members Purchase Award**



Randy Simmons, **In Hindsight, He Never Had A Chance**
Charcoal and white conté on paper, 36 x 48 inches
Paducah, KY

Jim and Ana Ward Memorial Purchase Award

Merit Award Winner:



CJ Escobar-Rodgers, **To Be A Billboard**

Paint on cone 6 ceramic, wood, cotton, aluminum

5.5 x 10 x 4 inches

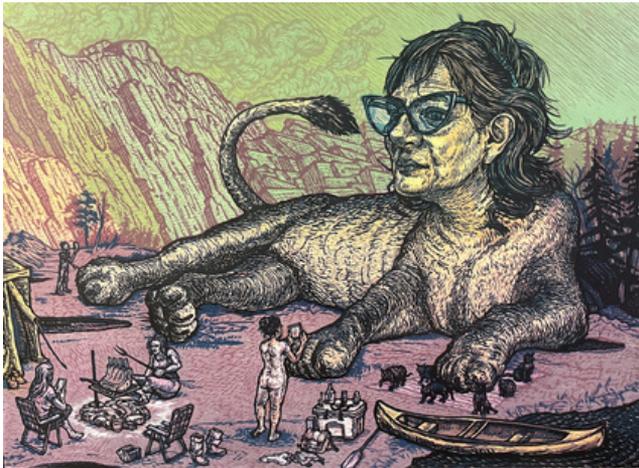
South Bend, IN

Museum Members Merit Award

Exhibition Checklist:



Dawn Adams, **Out There**
Oil on canvas, 48 x 48 inches
Bloomington, IN



Brett Anderson, **Riddles of the Sphinx**
Color relief print, 22 x 30 inches
Evansville, IN



Natalie Baldeón, **Reminders of Loss**
Watercolor on paper, 12 x 9 inches
Saint Louis, MO



Amber Barclay, **DNA**
Mixed media, 55 x 34 inches
Evansville, IN



April Behnke, **Primary Play**

Flashe and acrylic on canvas, 20 x 20 inches

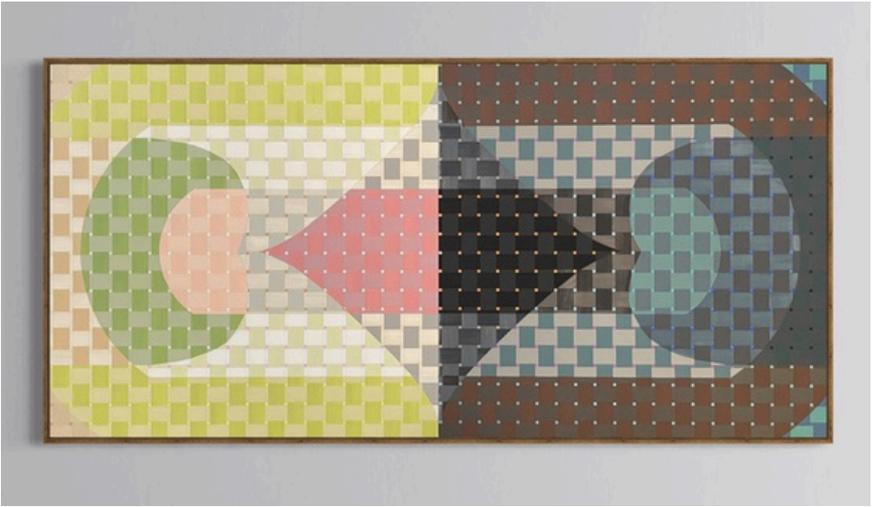
Chicago, IL



Greg Blair, **They Don't Want to Know About Climate Change #2**

Pine, glue, and mixed media, 10 x 18 inches

Evansville, IN



Sally Blair, **Untitled 12**
Oil on panel, 30 x 60 inches
Chicago, IL



Sara Christensen Blair, **Threads**
Doilies, video projection, paint, 54 x 96 inches
Evansville, IN



Bridgette Bogle, **Scrappy**

Mixed fabrics, polyfill, acrylic on canvas, 31 x 34 inches

Dayton, OH



Allyn Boley, **Morning coffee in fragments of place of memory**
Acrylic on canvas board, 24 x 20 inches
Bloomington, IN



Sally Brogden, **Untitled (LgKcLp)**
Porcelain, 5 x 23 x 7 inches
Knoxville, TN



Michael Bruner, **Mike do this. Mike do that. Mike don't do that.**
Pencil and powdered graphite on paper, 13.5 x 13.5 inches
Mascoutah, IL



Carmen Chami, **The Persistence of Memory when we just are able to forget.**
Oil on canvas, 32 x 70 inches
Wilmette, IL



Kyle Darnell, **Spiritual Death**
Woodcut on fabric, 50 x 28 inches
Evansville, IN



Kyle Darnell, **Ritual of the Witch**

Wood carving with acrylic paint and ink, 28 x 20 inches
Evansville, IN



Austin Delano, **Entropy**

Wood, bronze, 36 x 14 x 14 inches
Louisville, KY



Lindsey Dunnagan, **Reaching Sky**

Oil on panel, 36 x 27 inches

Kirksville, MO



Sarah Evans, **Play to Lose**

Ceramic, 17.5 x 7.5 x 15 inches

New Albany, IN



Alexandra Sophia Franz, **Perseus**

Oil on panel, 6 x 6 inches

Cincinnati, OH



Alexandra Sophia Franz, **Slop Sink Mirror (M1 Series)**

Oil on panel, 10 x 8 inches

Cincinnati, OH



Jennifer Halvorson, **Good Luck**

Blown and slumped glass, paper, flash drive, found object

10 x 21 x 4.75 inches

Noblesville, IN



Brian Harper, **Bunker Series: Compromised Lappi**

Ceramic, adhesive, 14 x 8 x 7 inches

New Albany, IN



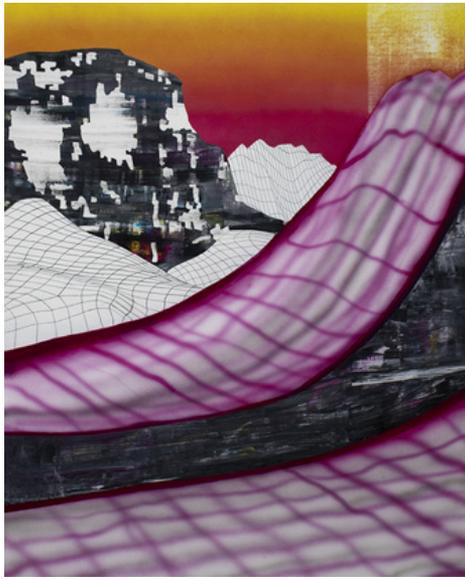
Michael W. High, **Behind the Mask**
Ceramic with oxides, slips, stains, 28 x 18 x 16 inches
Chardon, OH



Levi Justice, **Ascension**
Oil on canvas, 60 x 48 inches
Louisville, KY



Levi Justice, **Introspection**
Oil on canvas, 60 x 48 inches
Louisville, KY



Ruth Lantz, **Landscape**

Acrylic, graphite, and flashe on canvas over panel

35 x 28 inches

Urbana, IL



Erika Navarrete, **Ritual Firelight**

Oil on panel, 20 x 16 x 1.5 inches

Evansville, IN



Michael Nichols, **Fragmentary Blue**

Airbrushed buon fresco on ceramic support, 18 x 18 inches
Bowling Green, KY



Laurin Notheison, **In the Park #18**

Graphite pencil on paper, 16.25 x 23.25 inches
Bowling Green, KY



Brigid O'Kane, **Social Construct 1**
Graphite on paper, 6 x 6 inches
Cincinnati, OH



Brigid O'Kane, **Social Construct 3**
Graphite on paper, 6 x 6 inches
Cincinnati, OH



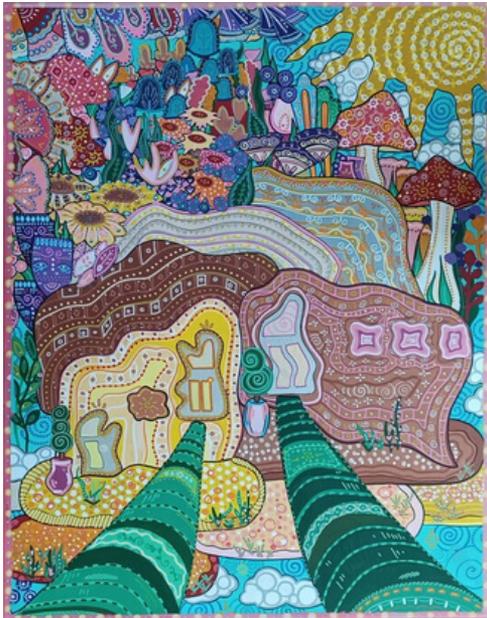
Daniel Oliver, **Night Fire**
Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 60 inches
Chicago, IL



M.A. Papanek-Miller, **Preparing for Winter: "They could not remember", 2**
Mixed media on paper on wood panel, 36 x 24 inches
Chicago, IL



Aaron Pickens, **Peer Review**
Oil on panel, 46 x 46 inches
Greentown, IN



Lilah Rogel, **Beyond**
Paint pen on paper, 28 x 22 inches
Evansville, IN



Jarrid Scott, **Oculus V - Strength**

Single-use plastic core, 41 x 26 x 6 inches

Dawson Springs, KY



Frieda Silva, **Come On In**

Gouache, watercolor pencil, ink on paper, 9.5 x 12.5 inches

St. Louis, MO



Jason Stout, **Fran the Titan, John the Titanic**
Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 inches
Martin, TN



Michelle Williams, **Carnival Queen**
Glass beads, cotton, quartz crystal, dacron, feathers
10 x 8 x 8 inches, Wilmette, IL



Michelle Williams, **Ready to Rock**

Glass beads, silk, cotton, quartz crystal, dacron, suede
12 x 8 x 8 inches, Wilmette, IL



Sarah Williams, **Atom Road**

Oil on panel, 18 x 30 inches
Springfield, MO



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