

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 4, 2017



Dave McKenzie
Present Tense, 2007
Video, 19:3 minutes; color, sound
Courtesy the artist, Susanne Vielmetter
Los Angeles Projects, and Barbara
Wien Gallery, Berlin



Dave McKenzie
An Intermission (Don't Care), 2016
Dye sub print on knitted polyester
10 x 6 feet. Courtesy the artist, Susanne
Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, and
Barbara Wien Gallery, Berlin



Conor Backman
The Sun Never Sets, 2015
Cast aquaresin, acrylic paint, pen and
ink on paper, artist's frame
22 x 28 x 2 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Conor Backman: A Clock and Map Minute

Dave McKenzie: An Intermission

February 2 – April 1, 2017

Artists' Reception: Friday, February 3, 5 – 7 pm

The University Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of two new exhibitions:

Conor Backman: A Clock and Map Minute and **Dave McKenzie: An Intermission.**

Conor Backman's first solo museum exhibition will feature paintings, assemblages, and sculptures completed within the last five years. Lushly depicted fruit trees, tinted glass panels, cast-resin orange peels, and cross-sectioned paint cans all play a role in Backman's deft investigations into the history of materiality and illusionistic space in realist painting. His most recent paintings, while rooted in the romantic natural world of the 19th-century Hudson River School, include ready-made elements that disrupt the picture plane with contemporary concerns related to perception and the idea that we live in a world made newly flat through unlimited access to information.

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UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

University at Albany, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY12222
Phone: 518-442-4035 Fax: 518-442-5075 E-Mail: museum@albany.edu

Conor Backman has had solo exhibitions at Smart Objects, Los Angeles (2016); James Fuentes, New York (2015); Retrospective Gallery, Hudson, New York (2015); and The Capodimonte Museum, Naples, Italy (2014); and has been included in group exhibitions at Galerie Gebr Lehmann, Berlin (2016); David Zwirner, New York (2015); Saamlung, Hong Kong (2012); and Higher Pictures, New York (2012). He received BFAs in Painting and Printmaking and Sculpture and Extended Media from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2011.

Known for his multi-disciplinary performances, sculptures, and videos, **Dave McKenzie** is a keen observer of the ways in which larger truths are embedded in words and images from everyday life. Are images still powerful? What is the role of the individual to the social body? McKenzie believes that no matter how saturated we are by images, they remain an invaluable tool for the historian, student, artist, and activist to address basic questions about our place in the world. *An Intermission* features a newly conceived project in the form of translucent banners. Based on archival and contemporary sources, the banners will occupy a space within the museum to publicly address the rereading and re-interpretation of images in the wake of recent social and political events. McKenzie's wide-reaching dissection of contemporary culture is further demonstrated in four recent videos, in which Henry Kissinger, Queen Nefertiti, Dora the Explorer, and a life-size Andy Warhol doll all make appearances.

Selected solo exhibitions include the Wien Lukatsch, Berlin (2015); the Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, Colorado (2010); REDCAT, Los Angeles, California (2008); and The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts (2007). Selected group exhibitions include the *Whitney Biennial* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City (2014); *Radical Presence: Black Performance In Contemporary Art* at The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; *Blues for Smoke* at The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles (2013); *The Ungovernables, 2012 New Museum Triennial* at the New Museum, New York City (2012); *At Home/Not At Home: Works From the Collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg* at the CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York (2010); *The Absolutely Other* at The Kitchen in New York City. (2010); *30 Seconds off an Inch* at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2009); and *Prospect.1 New Orleans International Biennial* in New Orleans, Louisiana (2008).

Awards and honors include the Gorham P. Stevens/Jacob H. Lazarus-Metropolitan Museum of Art Rome Prize (2014); the Guna S. Mundheim Visual Arts Fellowship, The American Academy in Berlin (2011); the USA Rockefeller Fellowship, United States Artists (2009); The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2005); and Artist in Residence, The Studio Museum in Harlem (2003). McKenzie received a BFA in printmaking from the University of the Arts, Philadelphia and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2000.

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For more information, call (518) 442-4035 or visit our website at www.albany.edu/museum

Museum Hours: Tuesday 10 am – 8 pm; Wednesday through Friday, 10 am – 5 pm; Sat, noon – 4 pm.

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