THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH DAYTON VISUAL ARTS CENTER & WYSO 91.3 TO PRESENT REINVENTION PORTRAITS

Exhibition related to Reinvention Stories project will be on view June 30 – September 29

(DAYTON, OHIO) – July 1, 2013 – The Dayton Art Institute has partnered with the Dayton Visual Arts Center (DVAC) and WYSO 91.3 to present the exhibition Reinvention Portraits: Photographs by Julia Reichert & Steven Bognar and the Reinvention Collaborative, on view June 30 – September 29 at the museum.

Last summer, an award-winning team of Dayton filmmakers and WYSO 91.3 public radio staffers, led by Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar, walked more than a dozen Dayton neighborhoods. Spending time primarily in Belmont, Residence Park, South Park and Twin Towers, they met people on their porches, in their driveways, walking their dogs, and in parks with their families. They captured hundreds of hours of video and thousands of images of great, funny, surprising and inspiring stories of adversity, resilience and reinvention.

The portraits featured in the upcoming exhibition, taken by the eight-member Reinvention Collaborative of Steven Bognar, Liz Cambron, Emily Evans, Megan Hague, Shawndra Jones, Emily McCord, Julia Reichert and Kyle Wilkinson, along with colorist Chase Whiteside, are a selection curated by Eva Buttacavoli, executive director at DVAC. Reinvention Portraits, presented in collaboration with WYSO 91.3, is part of a collaboration between DVAC and The Dayton Art Institute, intended to bring a fresh look at the art happening in our community.

Reichert and Bognar have a long history of visually unlacing the back story of their documentary subjects. Here, they have created a thoughtful portrait of the working-class neighborhoods of Dayton, many of which center on the front porches, observing the many forms they take.

The porches are bedecked; a few with garden statues, flags or flowers – “stuff” revealing more about their owners. The individuals or groupings of families, however, stand against these spaces oblivious to them, but fully present in their connection to each other. The photographers’ use of space – the porch as background and the tight frontal cropping of the subjects as foreground – reveals the power of the small gestures which make the portraits come alive. Photographs by their nature translate the three-dimensional world into a flat image, but these photographs offer some familiar gesture – the
unselfconscious smile of a friend, the clutching of a pet, the clasping of hands – that releases the compression of space and invites viewers to step into the scene.

The artists refer to a favorite photographer, Jack D. Teemer (1948 – 1992), famous for his street photography of urban Dayton and Cincinnati. Teemer sought to allow us to imagine the people who stake a claim to these places, but also register various societal factors, such as the effects of class, economic conditions, and urban zoning. Taking his cue, the Reinvention team’s photographs reveal a beauty in their portrayal of the celebration of life in the arena of upheaval and reinvention.

The exhibition also includes a looped video that merges three perspectives of travelling up and down the city streets. Created by fastening GoPro cameras to the left side, right side and top of the artists’ car, the video rolls viewers through the neighborhoods, unraveling and then raveling the city up again.

*Reinvention Portraits* is on view at The Dayton Art Institute, June 30 – September 29, in Gallery 209 (just off the museum’s Great Hall). The exhibition is open during regular museum hours and admission is included in the museum’s suggested general admission.

A gallery talk and reception with the artists will be held at The Dayton Art Institute on Wednesday, July 31, 6 – 7:30 p.m. The reception and talk are free and open to the public.

*Reinvention Portraits* is organized in collaboration with DVAC, an organization that supports artists in the community. For more about DVAC, go to [www.daytonvisualarts.org](http://www.daytonvisualarts.org).

For more information about this and other programs at The Dayton Art Institute, please visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org) or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Be sure to also connect with The Dayton Art Institute on [Facebook](http://facebook.com), [Twitter](http://twitter.com) and [Instagram](http://instagram.com) for additional information, behind-the-scenes photos and exclusive offers.

**ABOUT JULIA REICHERT AND STEVEN BOGNAR**

*Julia Reichert & Steven Bognar are Dayton-based filmmakers. Julia is a three-time Academy Award nominee, and a member of the Motion Pictures Academy. Steven has premiered four films at the Sundance Film Festival. Together, Bognar & Reichert have directed three films - *A LION IN THE HOUSE*, THE LAST TRUCK and SPARKLE. A LION IN THE HOUSE won the Primetime Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Nonfiction Filmmaking, screened on national PBS, and holds the record for the longest film to ever be selected for the Documentary Competition at the Sundance Film Festival. THE LAST TRUCK: CLOSING OF A GM PLANT premiered at the Telluride Film Festival, screened on HBO and was nominated for an Academy Award. SPARKLE, about DCDC dance legend Sheri ‘Sparkle’ Williams, won the Audience Award for Best Short Documentary at SilverDocs, the largest documentary film festival in the United States. SPARKLE screened at The Dayton Art Institute and Lincoln Center, and on national PBS. Reichert taught for over two decades at Wright State University’s award-winning film program, where Bognar is now a faculty member.*

**ABOUT REINVENTION STORIES**

*REINVENTION STORIES is a collaborative transmedia project from Dayton, Ohio. Created as part of Localore, a national public media project of AIR, the Association of Independents in Radio, REINVENTION STORIES is directed by Steven Bognar & Julia Reichert in collaboration with WYSO 91.3, Zeega and a community of Dayton-based filmmakers and artists. Principal funding for REINVENTION STORIES comes from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional support for the project comes from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Wyncote Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, the Sundance Institute Documentary Fund, the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, Chicken & Egg Pictures, the Dayton Foundation and Wright State University’s Center of Excellence in Collaborative Education, Leadership and Innovation in the Arts. For more, go to [www.reinventionstories.org](http://www.reinventionstories.org).*

**ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE**

*As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. Galleries hours are Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday,*
noon – 5 p.m. With support from the Chase Endowment Fund, suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The DAI’s new Museum Store and Leo Bistro are now open during regular museum hours. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

ABOUT DVAC
The Dayton Visual Arts Center (DVAC) provides art for the community and a community for artists. Located in downtown Dayton for over 20 years, DVAC presents contemporary art exhibitions; gallery talks; workshops; and art consulting, sales and installation for collectors and local businesses. DVAC receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council, Culture Works, Montgomery County Arts & Culture District and the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation; Community Partner Members Premier Health and Sebaly Shillito + Dyer; and Members.

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