

# McDonough Museum of Art

YSU's Center for Contemporary Ideas, Art, Education + Community



## Kelli Connell / Double Life: Fifteen Years

**Kelli Connell / Double Life: Fifteen Years**  
September 8-November 3, 2017

Public Reception, Friday, September 8, 5-7pm

**For Immediate Release:**

**Gallery Talk Kelli Connell**

Friday, September 8, 5-5:30pm

The John J McDonough Museum of Art, on the campus of Youngstown State University opens the fall season with *Kelli Connell / Double Life: Fifteen Years*. The exhibition, along with the *Salon de Fleurus*, is one of two exciting shows that will be on display in the galleries September 8-November 3. On Friday, September 8 from 5-5:30pm Connell will give a gallery talk followed by an opening reception which will run until 7pm.

Kelli Connell is currently an Associate Professor at Columbia College in Chicago. Over the course of fifteen years Connell has created a body of work showing the complex and layered nature of relationships. The photographs are much more than they appear on the surface. By scanning and manipulating two or more negatives she creates a new narrative reality. In these digitally transformed photographs, Connell utilizes the same model.

Of her photographs Connell states:

“This work represents an autobiographical questioning of sexuality and gender roles that shape the identity of the self in intimate relationships. Polarities of identity such as the masculine and feminine psyche, the irrational and rational self, the exterior and interior self, the motivated and resigned self are portrayed. By combining multiple photographic negatives of the same model in each image, the dualities of the self are defined by body language and clothing worn. This work is an honest representation of the duality or multiplicity of the self in regards to decisions about intimate relationships, family, belief systems and lifestyle options.

The importance of these images lies in the representation of interior dilemmas portrayed as an external object – a photograph. Through these images the audience is presented with ‘constructed realities.’ I am interested in not only what the subject matter says about myself, but also what the viewer’s response to these images says about their own identities and social constructs.”

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image credit: Kelli Connell, *Ascend*, 2013, *Head to Head*, 2008 archival digital prints.



# Kelli Connell / Double Life: Fifteen Years

Connell's work has been widely received and included in numerous solo and group exhibitions. Her work is in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Columbus Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Microsoft, Haggerty Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art and The Dallas Museum of Art. Connell's first full-length monograph entitled *Kelli Connell: Double Life* was released by DECODE Books in August 2011.

*Kelli Connell / Double Life: Fifteen Years* is a traveling exhibition organized by the Society for Photographic Education and is made possible in part by support provided by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, and by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

Youngstown State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, age, religion or veteran/military status in its programs or activities.

The *Salon de Fleurus* and *Kelli Connell / Double Life: Fifteen Years* are made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

McDonough galleries are open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am until 4pm.  
Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.  
The Museum is open to the public and admission is free.

The annual exhibition and events calendar is posted on our website  
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image credit: Kelli Connell, *Carnival*, 2006 archival digital prints.

