

# McDonough Museum of Art

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

**For Immediate Release:**

## OPENS WITH THREE EXHIBITIONS THIS FALL

August 23 – October 26, 2019 | Public Reception, Friday, August 23, 5-7pm

The John J. McDonough Museum of Art, on the campus of Youngstown State University is excited to announce the opening of our fall season with solo exhibitions by three dynamic female artists. *Excavations: The Prints of Julie Mehretu* is organized by Highpoint Editions, Minneapolis and features work by this MacArthur Fellowship recipient and US State Department Medal of Arts Awardee. Cleveland native Dana Oldfather whose paintings are part of numerous public and corporate collections and have been exhibited in galleries and museums across the country, will present her work in *Out of the Woods Into the Weeds*. Our inaugural Emerging Artist series introduces the photographs of Whitney Tressel. The shows will be on view in the galleries August 23 – October 26 with an opening reception on Friday, August 23 from 5-7pm.

### **EXCAVATIONS: THE PRINTS OF JULIE MEHRETU IS ORGANIZED BY HIGHPOINT EDITIONS, MINNEAPOLIS**



Known for her large-scale paintings and drawings, *Excavations: The Prints of Julie Mehretu* is a spectacular collection of her work in the medium of printmaking. Her works mix elements of urban landscape with personal, energetic iconography layering of maps, urban planning grids and architectural renderings with whorls of abstract markings and bright, colorful shapes. Today printmaking is a vital part of her creative process having completed collaborative projects at professional printmaking studios across the country, among them Highpoint Editions. Mehretu has participated in numerous international exhibitions and biennials including most recently the Sharjah Biennial 12: the past, the present, the possible, UAE (2015) and Documenta (13), Kassel, Germany (2012). She has received international recognition for her work, including the American Art Award from the Whitney Museum of American Art and the prestigious MacArthur Fellows Award. Mehretu was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. and currently lives and works in New York.

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**DANA OLDFATHER:**  
***OUT OF THE WOODS INTO THE WEEDS***

Dana Oldfather celebrates paint and the oddity of human experience with a focus on femininity and motherhood in *Out of the Woods Into the Weeds*. Her large, abstract paintings reveal fantastical spaces and intertwined figures in a chaotic, yet whimsical arrangement. They underscore the inherent emotional conflict of parenting young children, and the fragility of comfort and happiness in America today. Oldfather has twice received the Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award and had residencies at the Vermont Studio Center and Zygote Press.



Her work has been exhibited nationally at the Library Street Collective, Detroit, Zg Gallery, Chicago and Kathryn Markel Fine Art, New York and her paintings are part of private, public and corporate collections including the Pizzuti Collection with The Joseph Editions, Eaton Corporation, MGM International, The Cleveland Clinic, and the Progressive Art Collection. She currently works and lives just outside Cleveland with her husband Randall and young son Arlo. Join the artist on Thursday October 17 at 5:10pm for a lecture at the Museum.

**WHITNEY TRESSEL: *AMERICA STILL***

We launch our inaugural Emerging Artist Exhibition with travel photographer Whitney Tressel. Her photographic talents have impacted such organizations as Google, National Geographic, New York Times Student Journeys, Budget Travel Magazine and Esquire Magazine. For the past two years she has traversed North America, solo, in her 1985 Toyota Dolphin truck camper capturing a sense of place amongst the diverse sets of American landscape. In a 2018 interview with Jennifer O'Brien on The Travel Woman website Tressel stated "I also strongly believe in storytelling. I think it's important to document our time in whatever way you see fit. Creative expression is paramount, and everyone, not just artists and journalists, have the ability to create and share." Tressel will give a talk as part of the Department of Art Lecture Series at the McDonough on Monday, August 26 at 5:10pm.



McDonough Museum exhibitions and programs 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.

Hours at the McDonough Museum of Art are  
Tuesday through Saturday, 11am until 4pm.  
The Museum is open to the public and admission is free.  
For additional information please call 330-941-1400  
Or visit our website [mcdonoughmuseum.yzu.edu](http://mcdonoughmuseum.yzu.edu)  
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