

# Susan Emmerson, Grace Sheese, and Nick Stolle

## WITH/IN



The McLean County Arts Center presents *WITH/IN*, a group exhibition featuring artwork by Susan Emmerson, Grace Sheese, and Nick Stolle, from April 25 - June 21, 2014. A free and public Artist Reception for the exhibition will be on Friday, May 2 during Downtown Bloomington's First Friday from 5 to 7 pm in the Brandt Gallery.

The exhibition *WITH/IN* brings together the work of three developing artists in varying media. The questions of what lies within the physical body, self, and other provides each artist differing answers. *WITH/IN* is about a quest to discover and accept who we are and of what we are made.

As a former surgeon, Susan Emmerson knows the physical body well and her knowledge and interest carry over into her art. She cuts, heats, shapes, and paints Tyvek paper creating sculptural work that can reference the fragility of nerve networks or the weight of cancerous growths. Her drawings and paintings mimic the lines, sacs, and bulges we carry within us.

Grace Sheese considers the body in an intimate way as a functional ceramic artist. By making work that touches people's hands and lips daily, she has an advantage to speak of intimate subject matter. Sheese utilizes the backdrop of pottery to delve into the humor and hardship of personal relationships. Combining drawn and painterly elements with crisp decal images of animals and objects, narratives emerge and dance on the outside, inside, and bottom of her vessels.

Although Nick Stolle's paintings are nonrepresentational, softly geometric, and consist of sanded layers of pastel colors, they begin with the thought of a portrait. Stolle uses his artwork to process both how he understands materials, like paint, and how he understands the people in his life. An exercise in attempting to know the unknowable, the paintings are dreamy, purposefully unassuming, and reassuringly satisfying.

Susan Emmerson earned her MFA from the Art Institute of Boston, Lesley University, Boston, MA and her BFA from Illinois State University, Normal. She lives in Bloomington.

Grace Sheese earned her MFA from Illinois State University, Normal and her BA from the

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. She lives in Bloomington.

Nick Stolle earned his MFA from CUNY Brooklyn College and BFA from Watkins College of Art and Design, Nashville TN. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

***The exhibition is generously sponsored by Jan & Peter Brandt, Rachele & Mike Stivers, and Anonymous.***