

Fall 2014 "Spotlight" on Jessica Summers



Time to Think, 2012, 45" x 45", oil on canvas.

[Jessica Summers](#) provides a retrospective view of works she has created over the past several years. The pieces date from 2011; the year she moved to Ohio from North Carolina and chose to pursue art full-time. She displays her work in this way because, in her words, "from the time that I resumed painting until now, my work has changed significantly in terms of process and content; from quiet, observational still lifes to more elaborate, figurative narratives composed from multiple photographs." Summers is especially captivated by the capabilities of lighting. She creates constructed realities in her paintings by utilizing dramatic lighting and camera angles inspired from film and theatre. Her use of lighting, composition, and cropping of everyday objects creates unique, intriguing narratives.

Summers holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in two-dimensional studies and art education and a Master of Fine Arts in two-dimensional studies, both from Bowling Green State University. She was an art educator from 2004 until 2011 and her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally. She is represented by Brandt-Roberts Gallery in Columbus and Bonfoey Gallery in Cleveland. Her work will be on display at The Ohio Governor's Residence through December 2014.

Spotlight: Featured Artists at the Ohio Governor's Residence," is a new program created by Ohio's First Lady Karen W. Kasich which celebrates the work of Ohio artists by showcasing a few of their artworks in the Residence foyer. The program enhances the ongoing partnership between the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden and the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). Since 1985 the OAC has assisted in placing artwork by Ohio artists and Ohio cultural institutions in the Governor's Residence and throughout the Governor's offices located in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts. The "Spotlight" program will offer quarterly focus shows at the Governor's Residence beginning with an opening reception. Quarterly artists will be selected by Mrs. Kasich with assistance by the OAC. All Ohio artists are eligible to submit their work for consideration. Ohio artists interested in applying should contact OAC Individual Artist Program Director, Ken Emerick ken.emerick@oac.state.oh.us for further details. To be eligible for the program the artist cannot be a student enrolled in a degree-granting program and must be a resident of the State of Ohio.



About the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden: The house has been the official residence of ten Ohio chief executives and is a showcase of our state's artistry, culture, industry and landscape. The Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden is a unique and historic home that represents Ohio to a diverse range of visitors. The Ohio Governor's Residence offers a living exhibition of Ohio history, industry and craftsmanship, while the Heritage Garden strives to educate visitors on the importance of conserving and preserving the natural beauty of our state. To schedule a free tour of the residence call 614/644-7644 or residence@governor.ohio.gov.

About the Ohio Arts Council:

The Ohio Arts Council is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally and economically. For more information: www.oac.state.oh.us



John R. Kasich, Governor
Jeffrey A. Rich, Chair
Donna S. Collins, Executive Director



SPOTLIGHT:FEATURED ARTISTS AT THE OHIO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE



JESSICA SUMMERS



Time to Think, 2012 45" x 45" Oil on Canvas

OCTOBER 2014 – DECEMBER 2014



Flea Market Fiestaware, 2012 15"x20" Oil on Panel (on loan from the collection of Jan and Bill McCune)

Rather than highlighting artworks from a single body of work, this exhibition provides a retrospective view of works created over several years. The earliest are from 2011, the year my husband's job relocated us to Ohio from North Carolina. This move proved pivotal as it was the moment I chose not to continue my teaching career and dedicate my time instead to own work, something I hadn't done since graduating in 2004. From the time that I resumed painting until now, my work has changed significantly in terms of process and content, from quiet, observational still lifes to more elaborate, figurative narratives composed from multiple photographs. In spite of their differences, however, these works are connected by threads that run much deeper than subject matter or process alone.

Whether it's a still life of dead leaves in my studio, or a kitchen scene depicting myself kneading dough, I have long been captivated by the capabilities of lighting, composition and cropping to create narratives for otherwise mundane objects or spaces. In addition to the intentional storytelling created by object placement and the manipulation of space and lighting is the unintentional "technical narrative" inherent in all of my work. Rather than working on the entire surface of the painting at once, and placing a hierarchy on what receives attention, I immerse myself in every object and surface, layering paint until each component meets my standards. In addition, while there is always an overarching idea, the final image remains in flux until the very end. Objects are moved, added, or eliminated altogether. The resulting accumulation of brushstrokes serves as a record of my disposition and decision making and weaves a rich tapestry of marks. Finally, contrasts in color temperature further energize the surface and produce a strong sense of light and warmth in all my paintings.

**SPOTLIGHT: FEATURED ARTISTS AT THE
OHIO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE
FEATURED WORKS BY JESSICA SUMMERS**



***(above) Studio Still Life, 2011,
Oil on Panel, 36"x 18"***



***(top right) The Conversation,
2013, Graphite on Paper
32.5" x 31.5"***



***(right) Chopping Block, 2011,
Oil on Panel, 7"x5"***

Jessica is represented by two galleries, for purchase information please contact : Brandt-Robert Gallery- Michelle Brandt, brgalleries@gmail.com or Bonfoey Gallery, Marcia Hall, mhall@bonfoey.com