

# GALLERY GUIDE

## CURTIS MANN: *PRECIOUS BLOOD*

SEPTEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 21, 2024

THE DR. ROBERT L. BRANDT, JR. GALLERY

THE IRA H. & SUSAN P. THOMSEN FAMILY GALLERY

Dayton native, Curtis Mann, returns home to present an experimental new body of work inspired by reflections on his childhood attending Parochial schools, his mother's Catholic funeral services this past May, and the challenges he faced hiding and then embracing his atheism.

Using a mixture of personal family photographs, found, and AI-generated images, Mann has cut and affixed them to shards of glass to create sculptural collages. The work presents us with questions about what a photograph is, about the precarious space between the image and the object, and about the larger ideas of absolute faith, its teachings, and leaders. The work also serves as a love letter to his mother and his own feelings of mortality.

Curated by Jeffrey Cortland Jones.

Curtis Mann: *Precious Blood* is part of The 2024 FotoFocus Biennial: Backstories. Now in its seventh iteration, the Biennial activates over 100 projects at museums, galleries, universities, and public spaces throughout Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, Dayton and Columbus, Ohio in October 2024.

The 2024 FotoFocus Biennial theme, Backstories, focuses on stories that are not evident at first glance. They offer context for what happened previously or out of view, providing narratives not yet told or presented from a new perspective. Once told, they shed light on current circumstances and events.



*Installation View, The Contemporary Dayton, 2024*

## ARTIST BIO

Mann is a graduate of the University of Dayton, where he worked under the mentorship of Sean Wilkinson, whose work is on view in the companion exhibition, *Flora*, also on view. His work has been exhibited widely, most notably at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.



Curtis Mann (contributed)

## EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

All works from 2024, dimensions variable

*Ascension*, Rebar, glass, thurible chain, concrete

*Discards*, Concrete hands cast from latex gloves

*Final Condemnation*, Brass plated thuribles, steel chain, concrete

*Funeral Bouquet no. 1*, Inkjet prints mounted to glass, concrete, acrylic vitrine

*Funeral Bouquet no. 2*, Inkjet prints mounted to glass, concrete, acrylic vitrine

*Hospital Bed (After)*, Archival Inkjet Print

*Last Arrangement*, Inkjet print, Inkjet prints mounted to glass, concrete, acrylic vitrine

*Lost Smiles*, Inkjet prints on mirror glass, found cardboard insert

*Memory Plinths*, Inkjet prints mounted to glass, concrete plinth

*Morning After the Deluge Covered*, Inkjet print, plaster

*Offerings*, Inkjet prints mounted to glass, thurible chain

*Penance*, Inkjet prints mounted to glass

*Posy*, Inkjet prints mounted to glass, concrete

*Stoup (Precious Blood)*, Inkjet prints mounted to glass, patio table, concrete, glass

*Tear Collection*, Inkjet prints on mirror glass, concrete

*Tenuous Bonds (Stay what you are)*, Concrete cast from discarded latex gloves, pink fiberglass rebar, dyed concrete

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS EXHIBITION PARTNERS:

Presenting Sponsor:

**FOTOFOCUS**

Education & Public Program Partner:

**Dr. Robert L. Brandt, Jr.**

Content & Creative Partner:

**Mitosis**

Hospitality Partner:

**GATHER**  
BY GHOSTLIGHT

**Gallery & CoSHOP Hours**

Wed-Sat 11 am-6 pm

ALWAYS FREE



Scan to sign-up  
for eNews



**THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON**

25 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Dayton, OH 45402

937/224-3822 | [codayton.org](http://codayton.org)

