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The Contemporary Dayton Presents
Jason REVOK: Mutually Exclusive
March 13 - June 6, 2026

DAYTON (March 5, 2026) – The Contemporary Dayton (TCD) is pleased to present *Jason REVOK: Mutually Exclusive*, the first exhibition of its Spring 2026 season, featuring seven new large-scale paintings by Detroit-based artist Jason REVOK. This exhibition is one of three concurrent exhibitions of new and recent work by Detroit-based artists, curated by Heather Jones, Curator and Director of Programs and Engagement at The Contemporary Dayton, and presented to spark dialogue around the art and artists of our time. Also on view will be *Paul Verdell: Tabernacle* and *Jamea Richmond-Edwards: Leviathan*.

Self-taught and widely recognized for pushing creative boundaries that began in the street, REVOK has spent the past decade refining a rigorous studio practice grounded in process, systems, and authorship. While his early career emerged from graffiti, *Mutually Exclusive* reflects a deliberate evolution beyond those origins. REVOK selectively carries forward elements of street art culture—modest materials, industrial tools, ingenuity, and the assertion of his name—while embracing minimalism and post-painterly abstraction as the foundation of his work.

Central to REVOK’s practice is the construction of custom tools and mechanisms that mediate between intention and accident. By engineering systematic yet intentionally imperfect devices, he creates conditions in which control and unpredictability coexist. His *spirograph* paintings reference the geometric drawing devices that became popular in the 1960s and employ rotational systems to generate intricate geometric configurations that merge mechanical precision with subtle shifts caused by gravity, pressure, and the human hand. His *instrument frame drags* use self-fabricated frameworks to pull paint across surfaces in calibrated yet variable gestures, embedding physical force and movement directly into the composition.

“Jason’s process is fascinating because it bridges two seemingly distant histories,” says Jones. “While his work has roots in graffiti, including its ingenuity, improvisation, and relationship to the mark, it also resonates strongly with the legacies of post-minimal and systems-based abstraction. The tools he builds, the processes he sets in motion, and the way he ultimately allows the work to unfold place him in dialogue with artists who have long explored the tension between control and chance.”

Several new works in *Mutually Exclusive* extend these investigations while incorporating the artist’s personal commentary on today’s political landscape, including references to contemporary political figures. Across these bodies of work, REVOK examines authorship from start to finish: designing the tool, establishing the system, and ultimately relinquishing full control to the process itself. The resulting paintings are bold and architectonic, defined by strong geometric structures animated by subtle irregularities. Precision is evident, yet so is touch.

Some works in the exhibition also draw upon the historical concept of *damnatio memoriae*, Latin for “condemnation of memory,” the erasure or alteration of images as a means of reckoning with power and collective memory, inviting viewers to consider how images function, persist, and accrue meaning over time.

Raised in Southern California and now based in Detroit, REVOK has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Pasadena Museum of California Art, among others. His work is held in significant private collections worldwide.

For the 2026-2027 season, The Contemporary Dayton will mark its 35th anniversary alongside the nation's 250th birthday by centering the theme of Freedom of Expression across its exhibitions and public programs. For more than three decades, The Contemporary Dayton has served as a vital civic and cultural anchor, providing a forum for open inquiry and critical reflection. As a contemporary art center, TCD affirms the principles of the First Amendment and supports artists’ rights to free expression, particularly when engaging complex or contested ideas.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS / ALL PROGRAMS TAKE PLACE AT THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON / FREE & OPEN TO ALL

Opening Reception

Friday, March 13, 6-8 pm

Remarks at 6:30 pm

Free and open to all

Artist Talk

Thursday, April 2, 6:30-8 pm

Conversation with the artist and Mike Giant

Saturday, May 9, 2-4 pm

Mike Giant is a multifaceted American artist known for his influential work in graffiti, tattooing, illustration, and graphic design. Emerging from the underground skate and street art scenes of the 1990s, Giant developed a distinctive black-and-gray aesthetic rooted in bold line work, hand lettering, and iconography drawn from subculture, spirituality, and social commentary.

Over the past three decades, his practice has expanded from walls and skin to printmaking, apparel, publishing, and fine art. Giant’s work bridges street culture and contemporary art, reflecting a deep commitment to craft, community, and creative independence. He currently lives and works in Dayton, Ohio.

Guided Tours

Saturday, March 21 at 2 pm

Saturday, April 25 at 2 pm

Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 pm

Closing Reception

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 4-6 pm

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2025-2026 OPERATING SUPPORT DONORS

The Wiletha McGuire Family, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Culture Works, The Dayton Foundation, The Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Ohio Arts Council, The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation, and our Members.

GALLERY & CoSHOP HOURS

Wednesday–Saturday 11 am–6 pm

Closed Sunday-Tuesday

ALWAYS FREE & OPEN TO ALL

ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON

Advancing art for the community and a community for artists since 1991.

The Contemporary Dayton is the region’s contemporary art center. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, The Contemporary Dayton produces and presents ART EXHIBITIONS, ARTIST TALKS, and PUBLIC ART by local, national, and global creatives and makers, and is ALWAYS FREE & OPEN TO ALL. As a non-collecting art center, The Contemporary Dayton is one of 45 non-collecting art centers and museums across North America that specialize in presenting modern and contemporary art.

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