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**The Contemporary Dayton Presents**  
***Paul Verdell: Tabernacle***  
**March 13 - June 6, 2026**

DAYTON (March 5, 2026) – The Contemporary Dayton (TCD) is proud to present ***Paul Verdell: Tabernacle***, the next exhibition of its Spring 2026 season, featuring new paintings by Detroit-based artist Paul Verdell. In this series of gestural paintings, Verdell continues his exploration of loose, instinctive mark making, layering paint with collaged elements to create compositions that hover between abstraction and landscape. Colors and forms subtly echo horizons, while fractured planes and shifting atmospheres map what the artist describes as a kind of mental terrain. These works become landscapes both visually and figuratively—sites where perception, memory, and emotion converge. 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 *Jason REVOK: Mutually Exclusive* and *Jamea Richmond-Edwards: Leviathan*.

Driven by intuition, Verdell’s latest body of work delves deeply into the capacities of both medium and mind. His practice is rooted in an ongoing internal discourse, an attempt to situate himself within a shifting and uncertain world through the act of painting. Influencing this conceptual framework is his Black American heritage, which informs the work not as illustration, but as a lived and embodied presence shaping gesture, structure, and inquiry.

“Paul’s paintings are immersive and deeply felt,” says Jones. “They balance spontaneity with intention, offering viewers a space to reflect, interpret, and connect. *Tabernacle* reminds us that abstraction can be a powerful way to process personal and collective experience.”

Based in Detroit, Verdell was born in Long Beach, California, and moved to Ohio as a teenager. He received his BFA from Bowling Green State University in 2018. His career has quickly gained international attention, with exhibitions including The Armory Show, Hurst Contemporary in London, and the Dakar Biennale in Dakar, Senegal. He has completed residencies at Black Rock Senegal in Dakar and the Macedonia Institute in Chatham, New York.

Verdell’s work is held in the collections of the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum in East Lansing, Michigan, and Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in Cleveland, Ohio, among others.

With *Tabernacle*, Verdell advances a painterly language that is both searching and assured—gestural yet deliberate—inviting viewers into a space where abstraction becomes a form of reckoning and refuge.

**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 23, 6:30-8 pm

**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*

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**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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