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The Contemporary Dayton Presents
Simon Robins: Sociable
Our Next Member's Spotlight Exhibition
June 5-27, 2026

DAYTON (May 29, 2026) – The Contemporary Dayton is pleased to present *Simon Robins: Sociable*, featuring new work by Dayton-based artist Simon Robins and presented as our June Member Spotlight Exhibition that celebrates the vibrant creativity of our local and regional artist community. The exhibition opens Friday, June 5 with a public reception from 6–8 PM.

In *Sociable*, Robins presents a series of paintings derived from public domain and found photographs sourced from digital archives. By cropping, recoloring, and recontextualizing anonymous historical imagery, he transforms fragments of the past into psychologically charged compositions that feel both familiar and uncertain. The exhibition explores themes of social alienation, belonging, and the subtle ways individuals navigate systems of power and collective identity. Drawing on the visual language of post-war photography and design, *Sociable* also raises questions about the biases embedded within institutional archives and the ways history is preserved, interpreted, and remembered.

Originally from Portland, Oregon and now based in Dayton, Ohio, Robins has exhibited work at the Dayton Society of Artists, Rosewood Arts Center, and The Contemporary Dayton. In 2025, he received First Place in the Dayton Society of Artists Annual Members Show and Second Place in The Contemporary Dayton Juried Members' Exhibition. Robins earned a BA in History and Art History from Portland State University and a Master of Library and Information Studies from University of British Columbia. He currently works as a collections librarian and faculty member at University of Dayton, where his engagement with digital archives directly informs his artistic practice.

All artworks in the exhibition are available for purchase, with proceeds supporting both the artist and The Contemporary Dayton's mission to connect artists and audiences through accessible, engaging contemporary art experiences.

Open to all current artist members, the Member Spotlight Exhibitions are an ongoing series that offers participants the unique opportunity to present a focused body of work in a solo exhibition at The Contemporary Dayton. Each exhibition is installed in The T. Chase Hale & Jonathan A. Hale Gallery and remains on view for one month, opening with a public reception on the first Wednesday and continuing through the last Saturday of the month. These exhibitions not only highlight the diverse practices and perspectives of our members but also provide a professional platform for artists to gain visibility and engage directly with audiences. Participation in

the Member Spotlight series is one of the many valuable benefits of being an artist member of The Contemporary Dayton.

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

Opening Reception

Friday, June 5, 2026 6–8 pm

Free and open to all

Closing Reception

Saturday, June 27, 2026, 4-6 pm

Free and open to all

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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