

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Donald Fodness
Duets

January 20-February 18, 2017

Opening Reception: Friday, January 20, 2017, 6-9pm
Free and open to the public / Artist in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present the first solo exhibition from Donald Fodness with the gallery, *Duets*. In his newest exhibition, Fodness explores multiple facets of his interdisciplinary practice including drawing and sculpture. He embraces a latent grotesqueness in pop culture and our current social milieu through his found-object drawings. Fodness utilizes elements of low culture and elevates ubiquitous objects—novelty coffee mugs, record album covers, movie posters—through doodles and assemblage. His choice to arrange the exhibition as pairs both implies these works are strengthened by their exchange and augments the overwhelming nature of his artistic intervention, even in the smallest pieces. Fodness also arranges a dichotomy in these pairings between which the viewer is caught. This interchange is most explored through his bronze sculptures of this exhibition which stand as male-female counterparts despite their non-gendered source with many mouths, eyes, and features with which the audience may interact. According to Fodness, “Like the Internet, and a good soap opera, my art provides the viewer with a multiplicity of accessible inlets and subnarrative paths to weave a tangled cosmos.” His work utilizes autobiography as a point of departure, but then objects take on their own life as direct and unique experiences for the viewer. Within this complex cosmos, the viewer may recognize his own contextual relevancy, and either revel in the bizarreness or become enmeshed in the clutter of our culture, both grotesque and humorous.

About Donald Fodness

Fodness currently lives and works in Denver, CO. He received his M.F.A. from the University of Colorado—Boulder. His drawings have been exhibited nationally and internationally. Regionally he has created site specific installations for the Denver Art Museum, The Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, The Gallery of Contemporary Art in Colorado Springs, two Biennials of the Americas, and Harmony Hammond's Material Engagements at Redline. He has been featured in group exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Hyperlink/Zhou B Art Center (Chicago), Elysium Gallery (Swansea, Wales), Redline (Denver), Central Academy of Fine Arts (Beijing), among others. His work has been published in *New American Paintings*, *Sculpture Magazine*, *Found Magazine*, *The Creators Project*, and *Art Ltd.* Fodness is an active community member, curator, and collaborator with The Flying OHNO Twins and The DMB Collective. He co-founded Showpen Residency, is a founding member of Hyperlink, he is an Artnaut, and a member of Tank Studios in Denver, CO. He served as an educator at the college level for nearly seven years including University of Denver, Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, and Metro State University of Denver.



Image: Don Fodness, *E-Stranger*, mixed media on record album cover, 12 x 12 in. (30.48 x 30.48 cm)

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering “an exciting contrast of cutting edge works” and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the “premiere commercial space” in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

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