

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Metagalactic

Michelle Blade, Ala Ebtekar, Tobias Fike, Cameron Gainer, Paul Jacobsen, Becca Mann, NASA/STScI, Chris Oatey, and DJ Spooky
March 18 – April 30, 2016

Opening Reception: Friday, March 18, 7-9 pm
Free and open to the public

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to announce *Metagalactic*, a group exhibition that brings together a body of work that relies on the aesthetics of outer space to explore themes about vastness, infinitude, darkness, and exploration into the unknown.

Since the beginning of time, humans have been fascinated with the cosmos. We have searched for the meaning of our own existence through the unknown expanse of the world outside of Earth. Even as science continues to enlighten our understanding of space, there are unfathomable reaches into the universe that beguile us and propel this group of artists to consider our place in this world through painting, photography, printing, sculpture, and performance.

Some of the works included in this show are straightforward depictions or study of outer space. Cameron Gainer melted down a meteorite (dating 4,600,000,000 years ago) and recast it into its original form. Becca Mann's photo-real graphite drawing, *Half Moon*, is an exquisite rendering of the volcanoes and craters that cover the surface of the moon, and Ala Ebtekar's work from his *Tunnel in the Sky* series features a monoprint of the night sky on found book page with a cut mat collaged over the image which references ancient tradition, spirituality, and imaginings of the future. Also included in the exhibition is a stunning image taken by the NASA Hubble Space Telescope, which shows a glittering star cluster that contains a collection of some of the brightest stars in our Milky Way galaxy.

Other works in the exhibition explore atmospheric conditions, highlighting correspondence and chance. For his piece, *March 16, 2014* (2015), Chris Oatey applied pigment to panel and left it outside, where a snow storm ultimately created the washed out, abstract imagery. He then photographs the panel, and makes a carbon paper drawing from the photograph, creating a double of the original and bringing his hand back into the otherwise random composition. Tobias Fike also created his painting in the exhibition with atmospheric conditions – this time, the sun. Using the sun to burn holes into a bare linen canvas, Fike illustrates various constellations, all which relate back to the artist's personal narrative (in this instance, his age, 40). Paul Jacobsen's painting of an Orb juxtaposed next to a wooden sculptural element in the shape of an X considers the spiritual nature of our fascination with the moon and other luminous bodies that appear in space and randomly in our world. Michelle Blade's acrylic ink paintings illustrate our mystical connection to the cosmos and psychic energy to create worlds in which silhouettes are surrounded by and entranced by oceans of emptiness.

Lastly, Paul D. Miller, aka DJ Spooky will exhibit his remix of the Voyager album and in conjunction with Denver's Museum of Nature and Science, DJ Spooky will perform The Hidden Code, an album that "rests somewhere between a meditation on how artists and scientists convert ideas into action." Originally commissioned by the Neukom Institute for Computational Science at Dartmouth College and performed at the Museum of Science Boston, this performance features electronics, saxophone, strings, spoken word and planetarium visuals. The performance will be held at Denver's Museum of Nature and Science on Friday, April 29, 6:30pm.

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.

