

3 don't-miss photo shows

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Jane Alden Stevens' 'Imperfect Apple' is part of Landscapes of the Mind at YWCA Galleries, one of three FOTOFOCUS group shows in which her work is included. Landscapes will be on view Oct. 5-Jan. 10. / Provided



Written by
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Jane Alden Stevens, University of Cincinnati art professor and Fine Arts Program Coordinator, is part of three FOTOFOCUS group exhibits, at YWCA Gallery, Phyllis Weston Gallery and Xavier University Art Galleries.

She previews her work in all three shows:

Aperture

What: Aperture: Shedding Light on the Photographs of Jane Alden Stevens, Devin Stoddard and Connie Sullivan

When: Artists reception 5-8 p.m. Oct. 5.

Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and by appointment through Oct. 27

Where: Phyllis Weston Gallery, 2005 1/2 Madison Ave., O'Bryonville

Admission: Free.

Contact: 513-321-5200 and www.phylliswestongallery.com/

"There will be six pieces from my series Birth & Death in the show (chosen by gallery owner Weston).

"They examine, from an emotional standpoint, the linear progression of our lives from birth to death. The images are not 'about' any one person's life, but rather cover the major issues/events that most people experience as we age.

"The work was made in response to one particular year of my life in which many of my friends and loved ones were going through major life events such as pregnancy, birth, infertility, miscarriage, adolescence, serious injury and illness, and death...I speak to this inevitability in a way that is accepting, rather than trying to fight against it.

Photographers take portraits of other area photographers

When: Oct. 1-26. Exhibition reception 5-7 p.m. Oct. 6. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays

Where: Xavier University Art Galleries, A.B. Cohen Center, 1658 Herald Ave. (adjacent to Cintas Center), Xavier University

Admission: Free.

Contact: 513-745-3811 and www.xavier.edu/art/art-gallery.cfm

Photographers X Photographers, Xavier University.

"The concept of the show was to have Tristate photographers photograph each other because we are ourselves rarely photographed. We drew names out of a hat.

"I shot Jymi Bolden, and was in turn shot by Jeff Swinger from the Enquirer. Jeff did a *great* job, by the way!

"Jymi told me he'd like to be photographed at Art Beyond Boundaries (Main Street gallery where local and regional artists with disabilities display, market, and sell their artwork.), so that's where I did it. We talked the whole time, although I was frustrated because the film-based panoramic camera I had really wanted to shoot him with broke on the first frame I took!

"So I had to use a back-up digital camera. (Thankfully, I had brought one...) I think I'd like to go back down and shoot him again now that the camera I had planned on using initially has been repaired.

"Jeff and I decided to go up to Mount Echo Park to shoot me. Since we were doing it outdoors, of *course* that meant that it was a rainy morning.

"I told him I would do anything he asked except smile on demand. Thankfully he's the kind of photographer who was OK with the possibility of a non-smiling subject. (I only said that because I hate it when photographers say 'Smile!' to their subjects.)

"I ended up smiling plenty throughout the shoot, though, as he was a great guy to talk to. He does a kind of photography that I don't, so it it was great to get more insight into the approach he takes towards his work."

Landscapes of the Mind: Metaphor, Archetype and Symbol: 1971 - 2012

When: Oct. 5-Jan 10. Exhibition reception 5-8 p.m. Oct. 12. Gallery Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and by appointment

Where: YWCA Women's Art Gallery, 898 Walnut St., Downtown

Admission: Free.

Contact: 513-241-7090 and www.ywcacincinnati.org

"I will be showing work from a project that I shot recently in Japan.

"A few years ago, I became fascinated by a very labor-intensive method of raising apples that is used in northern Japan, and that is what the YWCA exhibit grew out of. These images reflect on the meditative aspect of the work the farmers do, as well on the impact that their work has on the land and trees themselves.

"Judi Parks initiated the show, which also includes Nancy Rexroth. Although none of us really had thought specifically about each body of work being meditative in nature, they really are, each in its unique way. This is something that seems to be emerging for all of us as we have narrowed down the choices we are making for the show."

Find a photo gallery of Stevens' work at janealdenstevens.com.