

February 22, 2017

For Immediate Release

**Crisp-Ellert Art Museum to exhibit works by New York based artist Jamie Isenstein from March 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 15th**

The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum and Flagler College are pleased to present work by New York based artist Jamie Isenstein. The exhibition, *Head Space*, will kick off with a walkthrough by the artist, at 4pm on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, to be followed by a reception from 5 to 9pm. The event is free and open to the public.

Jamie Isenstein's abiding interest in dualities of truth and illusion, high and low culture, and life and death, along with her embrace of vaudeville, slapstick and "artful deception," has resulted in a playful body of work that spans photography, sculpture, video, and performance. Although Isenstein has often used herself as a prop within her sculptures, *Head Space* marks a departure for the artist. In this exhibition her body is conspicuously absent and is instead replaced by disguises, automatons and the viewers themselves.

Works in the show include *Eye Books* and *Para Drama*, both 2015. Both sculptures utilize oscillating fans to form improvised automatons. Books and gloves become stand-ins for the body and appear to have taken on a life of their own, except the mechanical source of their aliveness is clearly visible. The series of photographs *Masks Wearing Masks*, 2015 also personifies objects by suggesting Halloween masks may want to disguise themselves. The sculptures *Onions*, 2015 with titles inspired by the Henrik Ibsen play *Peer Gynt*, takes this concept one step further, to meditate on the emptiness at the heart of masks wearing masks.

Other works in the show reflect on the body within the space of commerce. *Vanity Vanitas*, 2016- 2017 is a series of wigs on mannequin busts. Each wig, one of sand, another a mirror, a third made from candles, references Baroque symbols of mortality. *Infinite Closeout Closet*, 2017 is a collection of mirrors hung from a garment rack. Rather than displaying clothes for sale, the garment rack presents viewers to themselves.

In a new series of photographs, *Body of Mirrors*, and sculptures, *Gallery of Ice Cream*, both 2017, the artist employs curved mirrors as a mechanism to consider our sense of the body as disjointed, distorted or exaggerated. Isenstein's title for the sculptures comes from a comic mis-translation of *Galerie des Glaces* at Versailles, known in English as the *Hall of Mirrors*. While the experience of looking at these works may be one of entertainment, Isenstein suggests the fundamental mis-translation that occurs is a more accurate psychological portrayal of how we experience our bodies than the more "authentic" image we see in a normal mirror. Likewise, the staged photographs of arms and legs that float against a black background, are elongated, distorted and duplicated in post-human ways, reminding us of the body's malleability in an age of technology and ultimately, as Isenstein has reflected, what it means to be human.

Isenstein has had solo exhibitions at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the Douglas F. Cooley Memorial Art Gallery at Reed College in Portland, OR, and the Joseloff Gallery at the

University of Hartford. Her installation and performance *Infinite Invisible Soft-Shoe* was recently exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art. In 2015 her work was featured in *Pratfall Tramps* at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center. She has exhibited her work at CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, the Manchester International Festival, UK and Tate Liverpool, UK. Isenstein received her MFA from Columbia University in 2004.

For further information on the exhibition and related programs, please visit the website at [www.flagler.edu/crispellert](http://www.flagler.edu/crispellert), or contact Julie Dickover at 904-826-8530 or [crispellert@flagler.edu](mailto:crispellert@flagler.edu). The museum's hours are Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4pm and Saturday, 12 to 4pm.