

Consuming Culture

July 12 – September 21, 2024

20 NORTH GALLERY

18 N. St. Clair Street, Toledo, Ohio 43604 419-241-2400
20northgallery.com — info@20northgallery.com

An exhibit exploring popular culture, with a focus on consumerism in contemporary society

A new exhibition of work by Toledo, Ohio-area artists James Dickerson & Dustin Hostetler, Philip Hazard, Bernadine Rais and Michael Sheets, includes new media, traditional oil painting, photography, mixed media collage and neon artwork.

Comprising a variety of art mediums, the *Consuming Culture* exhibition offers artistic perspectives of the marketing and commercial spaces that surround us. Among the artworks on view are a 12-foot-wide mixed media and neon work by Philip Hazard. Michael Sheets presents his *Diner Still Life* series, which depicts iconic diner food with expert technique reminiscent of 17th century still life paintings. Paintings by emerging artist Bernadine Rais are also on view, capturing thoughtful scenes of solitude in commercial spaces, inspired by her studies of artists such as Edward Hopper. 20 North Gallery is excited to debut a series of collaborative works by Dustin Hostetler and special guest artist James Dickerson, as they present photography paired with illustration, curated specially for this exhibition.

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GALLERY
18 N. St. Clair Street | Toledo, Ohio 43604 | 419 - 241 - 2400

Online catalogue at 20northgallery.com

Consuming Culture July 12 - September 21, 2024

PHILIP HAZARD | BERNADINE RAIS | MICHAEL SHEETS
JAMES DICKERSON & DUSTIN HOSTETLER



*Themes of
commercial
spaces,*



Gallery Hours: Wed. - Sat.
Noon - 4 p.m.
Or By Appointment



*advertising
art and pop
culture*

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◇ Indicates artist's work is in permanent museum or public collections.

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A Note from the Director:

The *Consuming Culture* exhibition is not only a visual feast, but also a consummate delight for 20 North Gallery owner Eric Hillenbrand and me, as we welcome our own gallery manager, Anastasia Wagner, as the curator of this exhibition. Through her adroit and considered selections of artwork and artists, she has created an installation that is both entertaining and thought-provoking, showcasing five exceptional artists we are proud to represent. Our great enjoyment of this show also reflects our thanks to her for crafting it.

— Condessa Croninger, Art Director, 20 North Gallery

Curator's Forward:

As viewers and collectors of art, we consume. We take in the imagery and mood the artists have conveyed in the products of their work. In this exhibition, James Dickerson, Philip Hazard, Dustin Hostetler, Bernadine Rais and Michael Sheets delve into the topic of “consuming culture”—an exploration of popular culture, with a focus on consumerism in contemporary society. I am elated to welcome these five artists, whose contributions to this exhibit are just a glimpse into the experience each has with the themes of *Consuming Culture*—as designers, sign-makers and more.

The exhibiting artists all have based their art careers in Toledo, having recorded and contributed to the culture of our area. 20 North Gallery, as Toledo's premier commercial art gallery and the city's oldest independent art gallery (having opened in 1993 in the Warehouse District, perfectly located to witness the revitalization of our Downtown area), is poised with these artists to explore the intersections of art, commerce and the influence of one upon the other.

In a time of an increasing prevalence of subscription-based models and licensed digital content, the ownership of physical media is entering a renaissance—Ownership of a physical work of art is a special and personal way for individuals to not only support a local creator, but to curate their own environments in a tangible style. As a purchase, art is unique—when collected it is not consumed but instead cultivates lasting experiences for the viewer.

— Anastasia Wagner, Gallery Manager, 20 North Gallery

James Dickerson

Toledo, Ohio

Artist Biography

James Dickerson is a self-taught analog photographer living and working in Toledo, Ohio. Dickerson has worked with a focus on art photography since 2016, producing artwork under the name “dirtykics.” With a background in short story writing, Dickerson captures local imagery as a street photographer, seeking to record the stories of the Toledo area and the people within it.



James Dickerson
Photo courtesy of the artist

Dickerson has participated in numerous group exhibitions throughout Northwest Ohio, including *Group of Nine* at Hudson Gallery (Sylvania, Ohio), *Momentum*, arranged by The Arts Commission and installed in the Gardner Building (Toledo, Ohio) and *The Stories We Carry* at the Toledo School for the Arts, Martin D. Porter Gallery (Toledo, Ohio). Among Dickerson’s solo exhibitions are his 2023 self-titled show at Riverhouse Arts (Toledo, Ohio) and *In Order to Live*, installed in the Robert C. and Susan Savage Community Gallery in the Toledo Museum of Art (Ohio).

Since 2017, Dickerson’s work has been recognized through publication in periodicals such as *The New York Times*, *Harper’s Bazaar* and *ZUM* as well as in interviews for Ilford Photo, *The Blade* (Toledo, Ohio), *Toledo City Paper* (Ohio) and the short-form radio podcast *The Rough Draft Diaries*, presented by WGTE (Toledo, Ohio). Dickerson has received honors and competitive grants including a 2023 *Mosaic Award* from the American Advertising Federation of Toledo (Ohio) and a 2019 Merit Award through The Arts Commission, in addition to being selected in 2022 for a portfolio review by *The New York Times*. He is a two-time recipient of an Accelerator Grant through The Arts Commission, having been awarded in 2017 and 2019.

To learn more about James Dickerson’s artistic career, visit his website at dirtykics.com

Artist Statement

A photograph can change everything you understand about yourself. Be it the image of family in the 80s or the image of a departed stranger requested by their family for sentimental value, these moments influence my next frame. Fueled by a mix of duty and obsession, my work is made of the essence of our communities. To me, a photograph is a sibling of time meant to preserve the grains of our history and in my hands, I hold life through a lens as a documentary photographer.

Dustin Hostetler

Toledo, Ohio

Artist Biography

Dustin Amery Hostetler is a lifelong designer and creative from Toledo, Ohio, with deep roots in Detroit, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois. As a graphic artist also working under the name, “upso,” Hostetler focuses on human forms and design elements, coexisting in dream-like spaces. Hostetler currently leads global strategic communications at Ford Design for Ford Motor Company. His experience also includes five years designing with Bruce Mau.



Dustin Hostetler
Photo courtesy of the artist

In his professional design career, Hostetler has created illustrative work for clients including *The Washington Post*, Havas, Motorola and American Eagle among others. His work has been published internationally through Newsweek, WIRED and more, in addition to appearing on clothing, toys, posters and record covers. His numerous commissions include projects completed for brands such as Mountain Dew, Scion (Toyota), Yale, Converse, MTV, Burton, PBS and Skittles.

In addition to his studio and commissioned work, Hostetler has curated high-profile art and design projects for Diesel, Threadless, SXSW, Soho House, Scion and the *You Are Beautiful* project based out of Chicago. Among the many Toledo, Ohio institutions for whom he has curated projects are The Toledo Museum of Art, ProMedica, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Toledo Zoo and The Arts Commission.

His work with The Arts Commission includes curatorial projects for the *Momentum* arts festival in 2019 and 2020. In 2019, Hostetler coordinated with artist Matthew Hoffman for the creation of *You Are Beautiful / You Are Doing Great*, a 2-sided, large-scale sculpture installation in Promenade Park (Toledo, Ohio). In 2020, he curated a series of three murals created on-site at The Junction, an office building on the ProMedica Headquarters campus.

To learn more about Dustin Hostetler’s artistic career, visit his website at dustinameryhostetler.com

Artist Statement

Grocery shopping is one of my single greatest pleasures. Ask my wife—if I’m not careful I can lose all track of time while walking up and down the aisles. The highlight of most of my trips out of the country come from visiting the local supermarkets, and some of my most vivid memories of childhood are from my time spent at the Kroger’s in Bowling Green Ohio with my mother.

As an artist, being surrounded by all the colors, textures, and brands is stimulus overload—And as a people watcher, you can’t find a more universal human experience than coexisting with amongst the produce.

As I thought about what I wanted to make for this show, and I started to think about source material to work from, I gravitated towards the work of my friend James. His ability to capture the essence of the moment inspired me to go a little deeper, pulling elements out of his photos to illustrate, as though I was in the grocery store with him and his subjects.

James Dickerson & Dustin Hostetler Artwork

All work available for purchase. All artwork images provided by Dickerson and Hostetler. Dimensions listed represent full artwork size.



Squeeze; \$600 for pair

Photography and illustration, mounted on Masonite; image size: 6"H x 9"W; sheet size: 8"H x 11"W; 2024



America's Favorite; \$600 for pair

Photography and illustration, mounted on Masonite; image size: 6"H x 9"W; sheet size: 8"H x 11"W; 2024





Wonderful; \$600 for pair
 Photography and illustration, mounted on Masonite; image size: 6”H x 9”W; sheet size: 8”H x 11”W; 2024

Fresh; \$600 for pair
 Photography and illustration, mounted on Masonite; image size: 6”H x 9”W; sheet size: 8”H x 11”W; 2024



Sweet; \$600 for pair
 Photography and illustration, mounted on Masonite; image size: 6”H x 9”W; sheet size: 8”H x 11”W; 2024

Philip Hazard ◇

Toledo, Ohio

Artist Biography

Philip Hazard holds a B.A. from the University of Toledo (Ohio) in Film and Design and studied screenwriting and film directing at Tisch School of the Arts (New York University, New York City). He received his M.F.A. degree from Bowling Green State University (Ohio) in 2007. A native of Toledo, Hazard lived in New York City for over twenty-five years, co-founding the Let There Be Neon studio and being inspired by the energized and gritty sides of a big city aesthetic. He also maintained an independent studio in Tucson, Arizona for many years. His diverse personal life experiences influence the content and subject matter of his multi-layered mixed media work, in which he combines and layers oil and acrylic paint, photographic silkscreen, mixed media collage and assemblage on canvas, with neon used as the focus and emphasis within his work.

Hazard's artwork has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Mr. Hazard's artwork has been published in many books and magazines, including the books *Tools as Art*, *Contemporary Neon* and the Japanese magazine *Pronto*. His artwork is included in many public and private collections including the National Building Museum (Washington, D.C.) and the U.S. Embassy in Nepal (Katmandu).



Philip Hazard
Photo courtesy of Anastasia Wagner

Philip Hazard also has a background in film and theatre. He has written and directed films that have been screened at the Ann Arbor Film Festival (Michigan) and on public television. Hazard's *The Spider Sisters*, shot in New York City's East Village, was declared Cult Hit at the 1993 Arizona International Film Festival (Tucson). His television film *Loco Vida* was partially funded with grants from the Tucson Pima Arts Council and The Tucson Community Cable Corporation. Two plays written by Hazard have been produced Off-Off Broadway in New York City: *Take Off Your Sunglasses* at the New York Theatre Ensemble and *No Brakes* at The American Renaissance Theatre.

Now retired from a long career in the neon sign industry in New York City as well as teaching studio art classes at The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University and Owens Community College (Perrysburg, Ohio), Hazard continues to create new mixed media and neon fine artworks in his studio.

Artist Statement

Trusting my intuitive instincts, the inspiration and subject matter for my paintings and prints stem from personal obsessions, idealized pop culture, urban decay and ready-made found materials. Painting, collage, mixed media, metal, assemblage, text and neon are layered on my canvas to explore the larger context of the relationship between disparate images and their dialogue. The juxtaposition of unrelated images is intended to produce something more—the idea of the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

In the process of creating my prints and paintings, I play with the concept that 2 + 2 does not equal 4, but rather it equals "X," the unknown. Or to take the idea even further, 2 + 2 equals an un-definable cipher, an abstract gesture. There is no wrong answer for the painting process because it can equal anything. Consequently, it is important to explore the difference between intent and intuitive process.

My printmaking involves solvent transfer, silkscreen, mono-prints and is filled with impulsive and spontaneous procedures. I build my prints with the same approach as creating a collage. One layer on top of another continues to inform the next step.

The use of text stems from my many years working in the neon sign industry in New York City. That is the source for my fascination of text, signage and a bold, billboard-like concept. The use of text attempts to express my own desires and feelings. Themes speak to the longing in everyone. These concepts, coupled with past memories and emotional obsessions, underlies the autobiographical nature of the work.

My curiosity about painting techniques manifests itself in gesture splatters, drips and mark-making. The result is a constantly-changing layer-upon-layer surface, that is structured and thought out, yet appears improvisational, much like a jazz composition. Some of my painted images are representational, while other areas of the painting remain abstract and expressionistic.

The objects in my paintings are intended to become universal, timeless and iconic images. My prints and paintings attempt to evoke a response and interpretation from the viewer with regard to my various ironic, melancholy or enigmatic content. My goal is to reflect a universal narrative taken from my personal life experience and a tiny bit of the human condition.

Philip Hazard Artwork

All work available for purchase. All artwork photography provided by Philip Hazard unless otherwise indicated. Dimensions listed represent full artwork size.



Advertise; \$2,600

Neon and mixed media collage on canvas; 48"H x 144"W x 3"D; 1995



Give Get Love; \$2,400
Neon (animated) and mixed media collage; 36”H x 36”W x 3”D; 2008



Art; \$900
Collage box with neon and mixed media collage; 18.5”H x 14.5”W x 3.5”D; 1996

Photo by 20 North Gallery



Love Love Love; \$650
Mixed media collage on canvas; 24”H x 12”W; 2022



Love & El Mundo; \$650
Mixed media collage on canvas; 24”H x 12”W; 2023



La Mano; \$550
Mixed media collage on canvas; 18”H x 14”W; 2020

Bernadine Rais ◇

Sylvania, Ohio

Artist Biography

Bernadine Rais studied at The University of Toledo (Ohio), from which she received her M.A. in Speech Language Pathology in 2023 and B.Sc. in Biology *cum laude* in 2018. Through her undergraduate studies, Rais became well-versed in the field of human anatomy and physiology, supplemented in 2017 by a medical illustration internship. With experience in customer service and coordinating for businesses, Rais combined her compassionate client-facing skills with her passion for art through a past position as an Art Group Coordinator at UT's Senior Behavioral Health psychiatric inpatient center from 2016-2019 in addition to serving as an elementary school art club coordinator at McKinley STEMM Academy (Toledo, Ohio) in 2018. While pursuing her Master's degree, Rais served as a Graduate Assistant from 2021-2022, teaching Anatomy and Physiology at the Undergraduate level. Since 2023, Rais has worked as a Speech Language Pathologist Therapist.



Bernadine Rais
Photo courtesy of the artist

Rais began her artistic career with a focus on portraiture and still life using charcoal, before settling into oil painting. She finds subject and style inspiration from American masters such as Frederic Remington, John Singer Sargent, and Edward Hopper. Rais has exhibited her artwork in juried shows and arts festivals across Ohio and Michigan, including the *Juried Student Exhibition* at The University of Toledo, Center for the Visual Arts in 2018, *Crosby Festival of the Arts* (Second Award in Painting, 2023), *Art on the Mall* at The University of Toledo (Best of Show, 2023), and the *Ann Arbor Art Fair* (Michigan) since 2021. In 2018, she received The University of Toledo School of Visual and Performing Arts Director's Award, entering her work into the university's public collection for display on campus. As an Independent Member of the Toledo Federation of Art Societies (TFAS), Rais has had work accepted into the *TFAS 100+5: Juried Regional Exhibition* and *TFAS Juried Members' Exclusive Exhibition* in 2022 and 2023 respectively. In September 2024, she will have her first solo exhibition, *Souvenirs*, at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (Birmingham, Michigan).

To learn more about Bernadine Rais' artistic career, visit her website at bernient.art

Artist Statement

I started drawing and painting roughly 9 years ago. I initially focused on traditional subjects such as portraits and human anatomy. During the Summer of 2020, I spent a considerable time outside gardening and walking through nearby neighborhoods—this ultimately led into my journey of painting nocturnal scenes.

I find inspiration from small details such as watching the sunset in between houses, looking for new blooms, that specific blue hue dusk brings, or watching ducks swim. Once it was fully dark, I would drive around my hometown of Toledo, Ohio looking for more inspiration. I like challenging myself to find scenes that convey the depth of emotion and contemplation only nighttime can bring. I strive to bring forth a sense of familiarity and comfort to those who view my art.

Ultimately, my goal as an artist is to create something anyone can relate to. I hope that when people see my work, they can see themselves through the reflections I've created and receive reassurance that they are not alone.

Bernadine Rais Artwork

All work available for purchase. All artwork photography provided by Bernadine Rais unless otherwise indicated. Dimensions listed represent artwork size, without framing.



Five Miles Til Empty; \$800
Oil on canvas; 11"H x 14"W; 2020

Deliberation; \$2,800
Oil on canvas; 36"H x 24"W; 2023



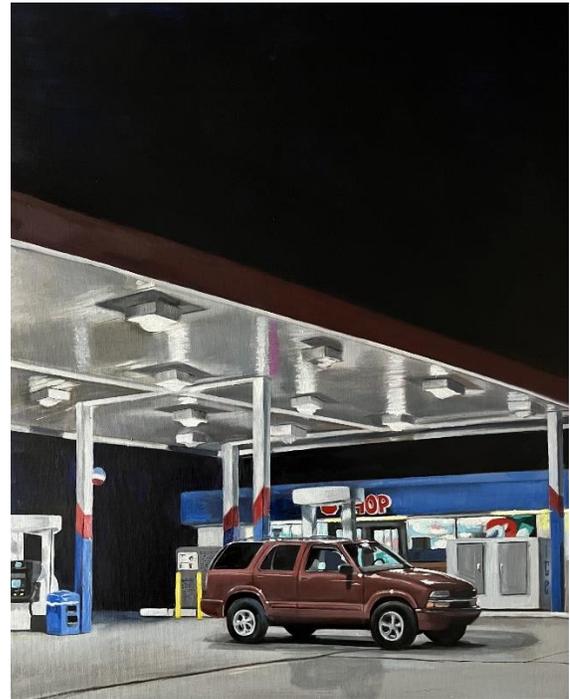
Laundromat; \$2,500
Oil on canvas; 24”H x 18”W; 2024



Shiny and Almost New; \$700
Oil on canvas; 14”H x 11”W; 2020



Exit 8B; \$500
Oil on canvas; 14”H x 11”W; 2020



Stop & Shop; \$2,000
Oil on canvas; 20”H x 16”W; 2023

Photo by 20 North Gallery

Michael Sheets ◇

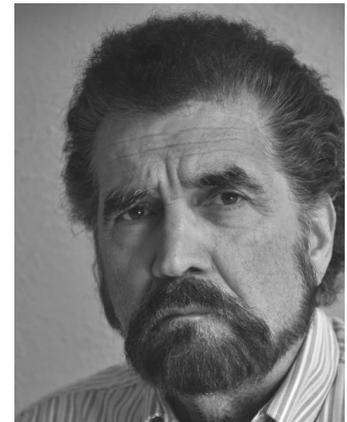
Toledo, Ohio

Artist Biography

Michael Sheets was trained in studio art and art education at The University of Toledo (Ohio), receiving Ed. and M.Ed. degrees. He has been an active and prolific painter for over three decades, with his works included in nearly 300 private, corporate and public collections throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, including ProMedica (Toledo, Ohio), Dana Corporation (Maumee, Ohio) Owens-Illinois (Perrysburg, Ohio), The University of Toledo, and Spiritmuseum (Stockholm, Sweden). His artwork is represented in galleries in New York City (New York), Los Angeles (California), Detroit (Michigan), Houston (Texas) and more. Since 1987, he has maintained a painting studio on Adams Street in downtown Toledo.

Identified by Louis K. Meisel in 1980 as a second-generation Photo-Realist, Sheets' work has been written about and discussed by critics as prominent and varied as Donald Kuspit and John Arthur. As early as 1985, it drew the attention of curators such as Lisa Lyons, as well as Eleanor Heartney, then editor of the *New Art Examiner*.

Sheets has enjoyed numerous solo and group exhibitions, both juried and invitational, nationally and internationally throughout his prolific career. Among the many institutions at which he has recently exhibited are the Skidmore Contemporary Art Gallery (Santa Monica, California) in 2021, *Gifts of Art* at the University of Michigan Medical Center (Ann Arbor) in 2015 and *20 North / 30 Years* at 20 North Gallery (Toledo, Ohio) in 2023. Additionally, he has exhibited in multiple installations of annual shows such as the *Toledo Area Artists Exhibition*, Toledo Museum of Art (Ohio) (Third Award 1985 and 2000, Canaday Award 1996 and 2008, First Award 2004, Israel Abramofsky Award 2005); *National Painting Show*, Washington & Jefferson College (Pennsylvania) (Juror's Award 1995, Grumbacher Gold Medal 1997); *National Midyear Exhibition*, The Butler Institute of American Art (Youngstown, Ohio) (Allied Artists of America Award 2005).



Michael Sheets
Photo courtesy of the artist

Among his notable media appearances have been articles about his paintings that were published in *American Artist Magazine* in 1982 and 2003 and the inclusion of his work in *New American Painting* in 1999. In the early 1990s, *Absolut Statehood*, an advertising campaign for *Absolut Vodka*, featured one of Sheets' popular *Stones Series* paintings. Sheets' painting of the iconic Absolut bottle rendered as an etched river stone, *Absolut Ohio*, was published in both *USA Today* newspapers and *Time Magazine* and has also been included in histories of that well-known ad campaign. The canvas would go on to exhibit nationally in New York, before entering the permanent collection of Spiritmuseum (Stockholm, Sweden), a museum of Swedish heritage, which houses the Absolute Art collection, now managed by the Swedish government.

To learn more about Michael Sheets' artistic career, visit his website at michaelsheetsartworks.com/portfolio.html

Artist Statement

Recording the effects of light is the essential aim and unifying theme of my work. The creation of visual illusions sometimes called mimesis, as well as an awareness of a painting as an abstract formalist construct, round out my

major concerns. Although I paint a varied group of subjects, a "tight" realism is typical of all my work. I feel that an interest in subject and narrative elements does not preclude concurrent attention to the abstract aspects inherent in composition in a two-dimensional picture plane.

The paintings are built from multiple layers of thinned oil paints applied to medium texture cotton canvas. I generally begin with a toned ground and establish highlight and shadow areas before applying color. This roughly approximates the traditional technique known as "imprimatura."

I make few drawings in preparation for my paintings. Generally, I shoot many photographs of subjects I am considering for paintings. These photos serve as my references during the process of translating an idea to canvas. Rather than a single photo, most paintings draw from multiple source photographs. Often these are composited on the computer. I modify the color and lighting freely but do rely on the photo for information on textures and fine details.

To summarize, while aware of formalist aspects involved in the design of a painting, I do not feel such awareness precludes the use of narrative elements. I believe that paintings at their best should be complex, multi-layered constructions that do not reveal all their secrets at first glance.

Michael Sheets Artwork

All work available for purchase. All artwork photography provided by Michael Sheets. Dimensions listed represent artwork size, without framing.



Cheeseburger & Fries; \$4,800
Oil on canvas; 20"H x 30"W; 2019



Dark Beer & Dogs; \$4,800
Oil on canvas; 20"H x 30"W; 2019



Coke Burger Fries; \$4,800
Oil on canvas; 24"H x 32"W; 2015



Eggs & Bacon; \$4,800
Oil on canvas; 20"H x 30"W; 2017



Danish & Straight; \$4,800
Oil on canvas; 24"H x 32"W; 2019

Consuming Culture

Catalogue editor: Anastasia Wagner, Exhibition Curator
Gallery Manager, 20 North Gallery

Copy editor: Condessa Croninger
Art Director, 20 North Gallery

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For purchase inquiries, please contact 20 North Gallery.

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