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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Three Vibrant, Multidisciplinary Exhibitions Anchor
The Jones Center's Summer Schedule**

AUSTIN, TX—May 15, 2013—From July 14 through September 1, 2013, AMOA-Arthouse is proud to present three dynamic projects at the Jones Center. Activating the First Floor Gallery and Film & Video Gallery, respectively, will be *Please*—featuring new work by conceptual artist Devon Dikeou—and Mary Reid Kelley and Patrick Kelley's satirical narrative *The Syphilis of Sisyphus*, both contemporary twists on historical source material. The annual *Advanced Young Artists 2013 Exhibition*, rounding out the summer suite in the Second Floor Gallery, showcases artworks created by talented teens over the course of a seven-month partnership with professional artist-mentors.

"With this suite of summer exhibitions, AMOA-Arthouse acts as both *Kunsthalle* and educational laboratory," explains Senior Curator Heather Pesanti. "On the first floor, the museum presents the strange and new in contemporary art, with a conceptually elegant exhibition by Austin-based artist Devon Dikeou and a darkly satirical video by Mary Reid Kelley with Patrick Kelley. On the second floor, the museum fosters educational initiatives through its community-embraced *Advanced Young Artists 2013 Exhibition*, celebrating the innovation between students and mentors."

In *Please*, Austin-based artist, curator, writer, and collector Devon Dikeou draws inspiration from the final sixteen still lifes made by 19th-century modernist painter Édouard Manet. Painted in Manet's last days while his health was in dramatic decline, these often-overlooked, intimate flower paintings were devoid of the scandalous subject matter prevalent in many of his earlier, iconic portraits. Dikeou derives the exhibition's title from an essay by the art critic Peter Schjeldahl, in which he describes Manet as a man striving to please his viewers while simultaneously tackling subjects of wealth, remembrance, love, sex, death, and loss.

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Dikeou plays with this aim to please, painstakingly recreating the still life scenes depicted in each of the sixteen works by collaborating with a glassblower and florist to meticulously fabricate sculptures in mimicry of the two-dimensional canvases. Photographs of these bouquets, printed to the exact dimensions of Manet's originals, will be on view alongside replicas of the specially-commissioned glass vases and jars containing the dried blossoms from the floral arrangements. Dikeou's process and presentation question the standard roles of the art world—artist, collector, viewer, etc.—as well as the context of Manet's oeuvre today. The work in *Please* was originally commissioned and produced by Artpace San Antonio.

Known for her polemical wordplay, New York-based artist and poet Mary Reid Kelley creates short, performative videos characterized by her signature monochromatic palette and graphically-designed sets and costumes. *The Syphilis of Sisyphus*, co-directed with Patrick Kelley, is an eleven-minute monologue set in 1852 in Paris, France. As the protagonist—a young, pregnant prostitute named Sisyphus (played by the artist)—traverses the narrow alleys of the city, she spouts poetic, pun-filled verses such as “Fishing for compliments, I will use allure.” A cast of historical characters, ranging from Napoleon and Jesus to Karl Marx and Marie Antoinette, acts out a series of vignettes while Reid Kelley questions the fate of women. “Make beauty boulder,” Sisyphus declares, evoking the eponymous myth: should women attempt to break free from the constraints of history and nature, or is the fairer sex destined to push the rock uphill for eternity?

Advanced Young Artists 2013 Exhibition is the culminating celebration of an intensive, seven-month visual arts mentorship between twelve pairs of precocious high schoolers and their supportive artist-mentors. The show highlights the teens' creative risks through a range of mediums including sculpture, painting, installation, and photography. In an effort to foster experimentation and innovation among Austin's next generation of artists, AMOA-Arthouse's education team approached local all-stars such as Jules Buck Jones, Elizabeth Chiles, Katy Horan, and Xochi Solis to take the students under their wings (see amoa-arthouse.org for a full list of the teen/artist-mentor pairs). The invaluable instruction, portfolio advice, and career guidance provided by these high-caliber professionals bolsters a rich program of field trips and studio visits designed to ensure each young member's bright future. A full-color catalog accompanies the exhibition.

SUMMER EXHIBITIONS AT THE JONES CENTER

700 Congress Avenue, Austin TX 78701

Please

An exhibition by Devon Dikeou

July 14–September 1, 2013 // First Floor Gallery and Lobby

The Syphilis of Sisyphus

An exhibition by Mary Reid Kelley with Patrick Kelley

July 14–September 1, 2013 // Film & Video Gallery

Advanced Young Artists 2013 Exhibition

An exhibition of work by Austin-area students and artist-mentors

July 14–September 1, 2013 // Second Floor Gallery

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ABOUT AMOA-ARTHOUSE

AMOA-Arthouse provides rich environments for a wide range of audiences to investigate and experience excellence in contemporary art. The museum accomplishes this through innovative programs and direct access to the creative process. Laguna Gloria, the museum's

ancestral home, which includes the restored, 1916 Italianate-style Driscoll Villa has been declared a national treasure and is listed on City of Austin, State of Texas, and national registries of historic places. The twelve-acre site perfectly complements the museum's award-winning and architecturally-significant downtown space, the Jones Center. A renowned example of adaptive reuse, the recently renovated facility, designed by architects Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis, was once an early-1900s movie palace, and later a department store before becoming the museum's downtown site. For more information, please visit the museum's online home at amoa-arthouse.org.

2013 SUPPORT

Exhibition Sponsors:

Austin Ventures, Four Seasons Hotel Austin, Greenberg Traurig, InterContinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel, Oxford Commercial, Pedernales Cellars, Hotel Saint Cecilia, Hotel San Jose, The Still Water Foundation, and W Austin

Annual Supporters:

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Promotional Sponsors:

The Austin Chronicle, *Edible Austin*, KUT 90.5 FM, and YNN / Time Warner Cable

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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

*All public programs take place at the Jones Center and are free with museum admission unless otherwise noted.

Members' Preview

Saturday, July 13 // 3-5pm

Invite your friends and bring the whole family to enjoy an afternoon preview of our summer exhibitions! The teen participants of Advanced Young Artists will reveal the fruits of their seven-month mentorships with professional, Austin-area artists. Also, meet Austin artist and former Artpace Artist-in-Resident Devon Dikeou as well as New York-based artists Mary Reid Kelley and Patrick Kelley.

Free for members // \$15 for non-members.

Stop and Eat the Roses

Tuesday, July 23 // 7:30-10pm

Artist Devon Dikeou recreated each flower arrangement and vase in Manet's last paintings

for her exhibition Please. Flowers are symbols of beauty and time, as well as sensual additions to cuisine. Come experience the exhibition on view, then taste food and drink created with edible flowers. Co-presented by *Edible Austin*.

\$15 for members // \$20 for non-members.

Impressionist Trading Post

July 14-September 1 // open during museum hours

Bring gently used art books, postcards, posters, or other museum gift shop wares to trade all summer long at the pop-up Impressionist Trading Post. In the spirit of Devon Dikeou's varied art practice, which generously invites other artists and the public into an exchange, visitors can browse, create, or swap Impressionist-inspired items from the Trading Post's changing collection of goods.

Family Drop-In Tours

Every Thursday and Friday // 11am

This summer, bring your young artists to the Jones Center for a specially-designed family tour. Each 30-minute session features art discussion, exploration, and a hands-on activity. For more information and to learn about the weekly tour themes, visit our website. Recommended for ages 3-6. Limit 10 children with caregivers.

IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT:

Devon Dikeou. *PLEASE DEUX (ROSES, OEILLETES, PENSÉES)*, 2011 Ongoing. C-Print of a Hand-Blown Glass Vase and Fresh Flowers Arranged to Replicate One of the 16 Last Paintings Édouard Manet Painted Before Dying, 12 7/8 x 9 5/8 inches (32.70 x 24.45 cm). Courtesy of the artist.

Mary Reid Kelley with Patrick Kelley. Still from *The Syphilis of Sisyphus*, 2011. High definition video with sound: 11 minutes, 2 seconds. Courtesy Fredericks & Freiser, New York and Susanne Vielmetter, Los Angeles.

Advanced Young Artists 2013 student/artist-mentor team Isabella Puhala and Ann Armstrong at work in the studio.