

## **In Our Own Skin: Stacey Davidson and Jenny Schmid November 2-December 10, 2015**

The Weeks Gallery presents “In Our Own Skin: Stacey Davidson and Jenny Schmid.” Works by Davidson and Schmid are presented together in a single exhibition because both, in their individual ways, have a special interest in the psychological and social forces that shape the way young men and women make their way in the world. The human figure engaged in thought-provoking activities or provocative settings is at the center of their artwork.

Davidson, assistant professor of painting at Winthrop University in South Carolina, is a skillful painter who works in watercolor, gouache, and oil. For Davidson, painting portraits is a way of looking closely at a person’s face to see how that person differs from all the other people in the world. Years ago, Davidson began to make highly individualized puppet-like dolls to represent aspects of herself as well as other personalities and character types. She makes male and female dolls -- some white, others African-American invented types or personae. The dolls serve as models for Davidson’s paintings and sometimes make appearances in gallery installation. “In Our Own Skin” features Davidson’s paintings and installations.

Schmid, a nationally recognized printmaker, is professor of fine art at the University of Minnesota. Schmid is a masterful printmaker and visitors to “In Our Own Skin” will see her works in lithography, etchings, linocut, mezzotint, and screenprint. Schmid’s style, influenced heavily by her studies of bookmaking and printing from the Middle Ages, mixes historical styles and forms with contemporary subjects. For example, the etching “Death Comes to the Skateboarder” shows the Grim Reaper riding on a skateboard with a miniskirt-clad teenage girl who is unaware of his presence as she listens to music through oversized earphones. Like comic books and graphic novels, which her drawing style also resembles, Schmid’s subjects address the challenges and passions that young men and women encounter as they move out of childhood and into their adult lives. For example, some of her works address young people’s obsessions with alcohol and drugs, music, and the opposite sex. Schmid has begun to incorporate video and animation in innovative ways. “In Our Own Skin” presents a video piece that depicts a burka-clad teen floating through the modern streets and ancient ruins of Egypt.

Schmid will present an artist's talk on November 5 at 6 p.m. in the Weeks Reception Hall, which will be followed by a reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres in the gallery. On November 9, Davidson will facilitate 20-minute portrait drawing workshops with JCC students and high school teachers. Models for the workshops will be JCC staff, faculty, and students. The drawings created in the workshops will be exhibited during a reception with the artist, students, and models from noon to 1 p.m. on November 10 in the Cyber Café in the Student Union

For more information, tours, and appointments, contact gallery director Patricia Briggs at 716.338.1301 or visit [weeksgallery.sunyjcc.edu](http://weeksgallery.sunyjcc.edu). For images, visit [facebook.com/WeeksGallery](https://facebook.com/WeeksGallery).

Programs and events:

**Thursday, November 5, 6-8 p.m.:** Opening reception and artist talk with Jenny Schmid.

**Tuesday, November 10, noon:** Reception with Stacey Davidson featuring an informal exhibition of portrait drawings produced by students during Davidson's artist residency. Coffee and cookies served in the Cyber Café.

**Thursday November 19, noon:** Discussion in Weeks Gallery. Read the article *The End of Men* by Hanna Rosen (online in *The Atlantic*) and participate in the discussion.

**Wednesday, December 2, noon:** Brownbag lunch in Weeks Gallery with director Patricia Briggs.

**Exhibition Gallery Hours:**

Monday-Friday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and by appointment.

Saturday: 11 a.m.-1p.m. and by appointment.