

Daryl Thetford exhibit on display at the Dixie PAC

Brittney L Jackson, USA TODAY NETWORK - Tennessee Published 12:00 p.m. CT Sept. 13, 2017 | Updated 1:03 p.m. CT Sept. 13, 2017



Photo Collage Artist Daryl Thetford's exhibit Contemporary Conversations will be featured at [The Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center](#) in Huntingdon from Sept. 16 until Nov. 25.

“Most of my work is about dialogue, about how we interact with or withdraw from our contemporary world,” Thetford said. “Contemporary Conversations is an overview of work that engages with this theme.” The exhibit will kick off with coffee, dessert, a reception and artist talk at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

About the artist

Thetford grew up in Bradford. At 9 years old, his parents enrolled him in local oil painting lessons. “I was one of these kids who was always drawing,” Thetford said. “It was such an obsession that my mother thought I might enjoy taking oil painting lessons.” He was taking the weekly oil painting lessons for two years before his parents entered a painting of his in the Gibson County Fair, where he won several ribbons.

At this point, he considered himself an artist, he said.

“I had never met an artist, or met anyone who had met an artist, so the idea of becoming one was equivalent to the idea of becoming an astronaut,” Thetford said. “It never seemed like a real option.”

Thetford loved art but decided to pursue a degree in counseling. He and his wife, who is also an artist, were both working full-time in the mental health field. The couple met a full-time artist and realized that it was a possibility. She was the first to quit her job and pursue art full-time. Thetford followed a few years later.

About his work

Since Thetford is not formally trained in art or digital work, he found new and unique ways of creating. “My work is psychological in nature and digital in process,” he said. Instead of using color and texture filters, he captures it through photography and puts it all together.

He was a fine art photographer but felt it was too limiting, he said. As an experiment, he combined a few pictures together and liked it.

“This led to actively looking for paint and texture to photograph and posing people in various ways to set up not only collages, but art that told a story,” Thetford said.

His work has been featured in exhibitions throughout the country, including SOFA Contemporary; ART Chicago; Art Dallas; artMRKT Contemporary and Modern Art Fair in San Francisco; the Alexandria Museum of Art (Louisiana); the Knoxville Museum of Art (Tennessee); the Mobile Museum of Art (Alabama); College of St. Elizabeth in New Jersey; and Open Concept Gallery for the SMart Multimedia Festival in Michigan.

The exhibit is free and presented by FirstBank. The artwork is provided by The Arts Company, Nashville. For more information call 731-986-2100.

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