

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art (STMA)

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Oscillations

An Abstract Art Exhibition

August 16th 6 – 8 PM

In partnership with the Madison Artists Guild, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art presents *Oscillations: An Exhibition of Abstract Works* by painters Liselott Johnsson, Erin McIntosh, and Diane Wiencke. This intriguing exhibition will be on view from August 16 - November 16 with an opening reception, free and open to the public, on August 16th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. This exhibition brings together three accomplished painters with distinct contemporary expressions of abstract art. They use materials, process, geometry, and color to investigate the meaning of abstract art and contemporary thinking. The result is a thought-provoking, engaging, and relevant exhibit that conveys an emotion of the oscillating nature of contemporary culture and the art world.

Through Abstraction, the artists in this show are able to investigate aspects of modern life that are not visible or tangible. In this age of constant informational bombardment from the internet, social, and mass media, our society is in a mode of examination and reevaluation of information overload. We are at once experiencing our own reality and one that is imposed on us from without. There seems to be a constant flickering between the self and the other, between what is real and what is imagined, between what is local vs. what is global; hence the title of the exhibition, *Oscillations*. The three artists, whose work is featured in this show, Liselott Johnsson, Erin McIntosh, and Diane Wiencke, visually examine this interstitial state of being “in-between” and the oscillating nature of contemporary culture and aesthetics.

Liselott Johnsson, artist and architect, produces works and installations that hover between painting, sculpture, design, and architecture. Exhibiting simple geometric patterns in selective colors in the tradition of hardline abstraction, her paintings and objects resist the illusion of spatial depth. The fields of geometric painting and reductive art have inspired her study, as have items of everyday use and consumption. Johnsson believes that a painting practice can work as a way to reveal invisible systems of control and other conditions that affect our everyday life.

Artist Erin McIntosh produces intuitive abstract paintings that explore the space between representation and abstraction, impermanence and permanence, and the invisible and visible.

Her paintings exhibit a fusion and intermingling of structured shapes and organic forms that seem to reference elements of architecture and organic microscopic material. Intriguing symphonies of form, color and rhythm populate each painting which come into being through improvisational mark making and layering. McIntosh's paintings communicate sensorial meaning in a non-verbal way that is similar to instrumental music.

Painter, Diane Wiencke produces works that result from the rousing energy born through the unlikely pairing of various materials as well as through actions that stimulate unexpected transformations. A series of processes are applied to each canvas --glazing, ripping, waxing, sanding, poking --resulting in work that explores dualities such as intention and intuition, peace and agitation and meaning and ambiguity. By accepting deterioration and the build-up of decay as part of the creative process, Wiencke seeks to incorporate signifiers of memory and the possibilities of rebirth.

While exhibiting the work of artist Steffen Thomas is the Museum's primary objective, a long-standing partnership has evolved between STMA and the Madison Artists Guild (MAG) in which exhibitions of works of the highest quality created by Guild members are presented. *Oscillations* is the latest exhibit emanating from this successful relationship between the two non-profit arts organizations. The Museum and MAG also share a goal of providing art education programs and projects for children and families. Relative to this goal, the work in *Oscillations*—exploring the state of being “in between” two or several opposing poles – relates to that of Steffen Thomas in which he applied his skills to various forms of expression beyond traditional methods to create a body of work that evades classification. These common characteristics will serve as a springboard for discussion on the oppositions experienced in Thomas's work and will be explored in artist talks and workshops for children and adults, to be scheduled during the show's duration.

Make plans to attend the free opening reception on Friday, August 16 from 6 to 8 pm. The Museum is located at 4200 Bethany Road, Buckhead, GA 30625. Artist talks, family workshops, and other educational programs will be scheduled in conjunction with this exhibition. A catalogue of the exhibition will be available for print-on-demand orders. STMA is open Tuesday – Saturday 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$5 for Adults, \$3 for Seniors and Students, children under 6 are free. Admission to this exhibit is free for STMA and MAG members.