

**Hood Downtown Photography Exhibition Presents Julie Blackmon’s
Scenes of the Uncanny Side of Ordinary**



April 24, 2017—Hanover, N.H. —The exhibition *Julie Blackmon: The Everyday Fantastic* features work from this major American photographer’s most recent, and ongoing, series, *Homegrown*—a title both revealing and appropriate to the images. Blackmon was raised in Springfield, Missouri, and has decided to remain there and make that world the setting for her carefully choreographed photographs. She approaches Middle America with a poetic combination of wonder and worry as she explores the perpetual mysteries of daily life in a

familiar place. This exhibition at Hood Downtown, 53 Main Street, Hanover, will be on view from June 9 through August 27, 2017, with student and public openings on June 29 and 30, respectively, and a conversation with the artist and the Hood’s Virginia Rice Kelsey 1961s Director (and the exhibition’s curator) John Stomberg on July 1. This exhibition was organized by the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth, and generously supported by the Charles Gilman Family Endowment.

Blackmon’s works exist somewhat outside of time—or, at least, they are not obviously or specifically of today. Rather, her “sets” abound with the detritus of pre-Internet play. The children in her narratives get bored, play pretend, stage performances, and generally rely on imagination to fill their days. Ultimately, the characters in her work mirror in their play the very practice adopted so successfully by the photographer. Her richly detailed photographs depend on precise staging, the acceptance of serendipity, and the imagination of her viewers.

In this series, her third, Blackmon evokes a domestic world gone just slightly awry. There is nothing seriously disastrous in her mise-en-scènes—yet. There are living rooms inhabited only by children caught up in dramas of their own invention. There are backyard barbeques and garage sales—not ordinarily the stuff of suspense. But each image suggests potential intrigues percolating just below the level of the obvious. The artist’s brilliance lies in allowing viewers the sense that they make their own discoveries. Blackmon’s actors appear to be unaware of the dramas in which they participate, and her images invite viewers to look closely at and think deeply about these visual, metaphorical considerations of the emotional complexity of everyday life.

About Hood Downtown

During the interval of the Hood Museum of Art’s construction and reinstallation, Hood Downtown, located at 53 Main Street, Hanover, NH, presents an ambitious series of

News Release | Contact: Alison Palizzolo, Public Relations Coordinator | (603) 646-2426 | alison.m.palizzolo@dartmouth.edu

exhibitions featuring contemporary artists from around the world. Many of these works by a diverse group of artists are on view in Hanover for the first time. Like the museum, Hood Downtown is free and open to the public.

About the Hood Museum of Art

The mission of the Hood Museum of Art, as a teaching museum, is to create an ideal learning environment that fosters transformative encounters with works of art. This dynamic educational and cultural facility houses one of the oldest and largest college collections in the country, with more than 70,000 objects acquired since 1772. Among its most important works are six Assyrian stone reliefs that date from around 900 BCE. The collection also presents art from other ancient cultures, the Americas, Europe, Africa, Papua New Guinea, and many more regions of the world. The Hood seeks to inspire and educate through direct engagement with original works of art and offers access to the rich diversity of its collections through ongoing highlights displays, special exhibitions, an online collections database, and a wide array of programs and events. The museum is presently closed for expansion and renovation work that is anticipated to end in late 2018.

About Dartmouth

Founded in 1769, Dartmouth is a member of the Ivy League and consistently ranks among the world's greatest colleges and universities. Dartmouth has forged a singular identity for combining its deep commitment to outstanding undergraduate liberal arts and graduate and professional education with distinguished research and scholarship in the arts and sciences and its three leading professional schools—the Geisel School of Medicine, Thayer School of Engineering, and the Tuck School of Business.

Media Contacts:

Hood Museum of Art

Alison Palizzolo: (603) 646-2426 • alison.m.palizzolo@dartmouth.edu

Dartmouth College Office of Communications

(603) 646-3661 • communications@dartmouth.edu

Image caption: Julie Blackmon, *New Chair*, 2014, archival pigment print. © Julie Blackmon, courtesy Robert Mann Gallery