



## Rochester Contemporary Art Center

137 East Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14604  
585.461.2222

hours: Wed – Sun 12-5 pm / Fri 12-9pm

admission: \$2 / free for members



## NEWS RELEASE

for more information contact:

Bleu Cease

(585) 461.2222

bleu@rochestercontemporary.org

### Rochester Contemporary Art Center (RoCo) announces *Witness* as part of New Rochester Biennial in collaboration with Visual Studies Workshop (VSW), and Gallery r

**Exhibition Dates:** October 6 – November 12

**Opening Reception:** October 6, 6 – 9pm

**Progressive Artist Talk at RoCo:** Oct. 7, 12 – 1:30 pm

\*Free for RIT students and VSW members

(Rochester, NY) To inaugurate the New Rochester Biennial, RoCo presents *Witness* featuring works by local artists Paul Dodd and the late Leo Dodd (1927 – 2015). The exhibition contrasts their shared impulse and decades-long commitment to documenting different aspects of Rochester, NY. In the mid-nineties Paul Dodd started painting portraits of local people. One of his major sources has been, and still is the “Crimestoppers” page from the *Democrat & Chronicle*. He has continued to work from these images, making hundreds of drawings and paintings over the years. Paul creates his own drawings, paintings, and photographs in a straightforward reinterpretation of the source imagery, meditating on the \_\_\_mugshot. *Witness* includes paintings, drawings, photographs, twenty new charcoal drawings and source materials and documents related to the project.

*Witness* includes a collection of thirty paintings by Leo Dodd (Paul’s father) that explore and document the landscapes and changes in the city of Rochester. After retirement Leo traveled around Rochester sketching local sights. He loved downtown and was especially drawn to construction sites as Rochester remade itself.

On view in RoCo’s main gallery, the exhibition runs October 6 – November 12. The exhibition will be accompanied by an essay by Erica Bryant regarding how we image crime in our culture, and an essay by local artist and gallerist, Rick Muto reflecting on the work of Leo Dodd.

**Leo Dodd** (Rochester, NY) Leo was a mechanical design engineer for Kodak for 30 years. In addition to painting, his many hobbies and interests included birding, local history, preservation, and photography. When Dodd retired as an engineer from Kodak in 1986 he pursued painting and drawing. He attended art classes and workshops at R.I.T., and the UR Memorial Art Gallery, among others where he became an avid artist; and traveled around Rochester recording many local scenes and events.

**Paul Dodd** (Rochester, NY) Paul graduated from SUNY College in 1978 with a BS in Fine Arts. He is a painter, musician, and photographer. Between 1997 and 2015, he has held solo exhibitions at the Cell Gallery at Writers & Books, the Kinetic Gallery at SUNY Geneseo, the Little Theatre Cafe and RoCo. He has participated in several group shows the New York State area including venues like the Memorial Art Gallery, I-Square Gallery, Schweinfurth and several creative workshop show. Paul also plays drums with the improvisational jazz group *Margaret Explosion*.

*Witness* is presented as part of The New Rochester Biennial. The New Rochester Biennial is dedicated to expanding the dialogue surrounding contemporary art and supporting cooperation between Rochester’s mid-sized venues. For the 2017 edition of the RBNL, RoCo, VSW, and Gallery r have each curated exhibitions that investigate collaboration, influence; and feature projects by a diverse range of artists. In future editions, The Biennial will continue to bring artists and arts organizations together prompting new curatorial models. Curated experiences during the October 6 Receptions and Progressive Artist Talks will connect the three exhibitions.

In conjunction, Gallery r presents an exhibition of RIT Alumni Bethany Krull & Jesse Walp (part of RIT’s annual Alumni Spotlight series) and VSW will open *Implement*, the latest participatory art project initiated by Bridget Elmer and Emily Larned, co-founders of ILSSA, Impractical Labor in Service of the Speculative Arts. VSW will exhibit a selection of ILSSA publications as well as a collection of resources featuring artists who inspired and influenced the founding and development of the organization.

#### **Shared Rochester Biennial Programming:**

Place-making, processional curated experiences linking the three venues during the opening receptions.

Gallery r to VSW, departs Gallery r at 6:45 pm

VSW to RoCo, departs VSW at 8 pm

Music and experimental sound performances organized by Joe Tunis of Carbon Records will engage visitors as they move between the three spaces.

#### **Progressive Artist Talk:**

RoCo: Oct. 7, 12-1:30 pm

VSW: Oct. 7, 2-3:30 pm

Gallery r: Oct. 7, 4-5:30 pm