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Related Exhibit, “Hat-Trick,” to Celebrate Minnesota Hockey Culture, Featuring Nationally Celebrated Sports Artist Tim Cortes Along with Paintings and Sculptures by 10 Additional Artists

Dual Opening Reception from 5 – 7 PM on April 14 to Include Hockey Hair Fashion Show

Duluth, MN—March 9, 2016—On Thursday, April 14, the Duluth Art Institute will open two new, sports-themed exhibitions. “Team Spirit” features the work of local, conceptual artists Jen Dietrich and Robb Quisling, whose experiences with sport and the rituals within games inform their interactive installations. Many of the displayed pieces will invite viewers to engage their senses as they see, touch, hear and smell their way through the gallery. A companion show, “Hat-Trick,” will celebrate Minnesota hockey culture. Photo-realistic colored pencil drawings by nationally celebrated sports artist Tim Cortes will be showcased, as well as representational paintings and sculptures reveling in hockey, made by 10 additional artists. The opening reception for both exhibitions will take place from 5 – 7 PM and will include a high-octane hockey hair fashion show.

Team Spirit: Jen Dietrich and Robb Quisling

“Team Spirit” will present several three-dimensional installations by Jen Dietrich, an artist and assistant professor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and Robb Quisling, an artist and art educator at Hermantown High School. Their work investigates a variety of sports and often includes elements of sound and smell, contorting the viewer to participate in the game.

Dietrich grew up as a “tomboy” and has always drawn from those experiences in her practice as an artist. Quisling—a former student of Dietrich’s—came to sports later in life, using them as a way to forge relationships with colleagues and students and then exploring this mysterious world of athletics through art. Together, the two would meet weekly in Quisling’s studio to process ideas, examining the sport as a ritual that builds connections between
people while also deconstructing various games and sporting equipment to get to the root of what they are.

Work on view will include:

- A variety of distilled, sports-related smells presented as colognes—such as the leather of a used baseball glove—potentially triggering memories;
- A “Trainer’s Table” installation with shredded gear;
- Rock-climbing holds made in resin (the same material used at Vertical Endeavors) and shaped like various human body parts, which gallery visitors can grab as rock climbers would, pushing boundaries of comfort interacting with other bodies;
- A video projection of NFL tackles, coupled with gentler music;
- A large-scale painting some three feet tall of a hockey face-off spot, coated in wax to mimic ice and with evidence of scratching on the surface, paired with an actual puck waiting to fall on the piece;
- A wall hanging created with turf;
- A rubber relief sculpture of a gym shower, standing eight feet tall;
- Eighteen baseball gloves deconstructed and sewn back together into a single mass, with evidence of the athletes’ hands in the worn leather exposed for gallery visitors to touch.

“Team Spirit” will be displayed in the DAI George Morrison Gallery April 14 – July 7, 2016. University of Minnesota-Duluth assistant professor Jamie Ratliff will give a Gallery Talk at 5 PM on Thursday, April 28.

**Hat-Trick: A Celebration of Hockey and Art**

Hockey and the fine arts may seem at the opposite ends of the cultural spectrum, but the two find surprising common ground in the passion expressed in each field’s players: dedication, pain, drama, fight, and fabulous hair. Both share incredibly rich cultural traditions in the Twin Ports and will be jointly celebrated in “Hat-Trick.”

The work of [Tim Cortes](http://www.timcortes.com), a nationally celebrated sports artist, will anchor “Hat-Trick.” Cortes played hockey and football at Duluth East High School, and then went on to play with the US Hockey League and the Golden Gophers—all before studying art at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. His large-scale, photo-realistic colored pencil drawings concentrate on famous athletes and sporting events. Cortes’ work has been displayed at the US Hockey Hall of Fame and at jersey retirement ceremonies for NHL and NFL pros. It can be found in the private collections of sports heroes like Troy Aikman, Dale Earnhardt, Wayne Gretzky, and Shaquille O’Neal; and his murals can be seen at Target Field’s “Champions’ Club” lounge. The artist currently lives in Duluth’s Lakeside neighborhood with his wife and children, and coaches youth hockey and baseball.

Paired with Cortes’ work will be a variety of paintings and sculptures that celebrate hockey including work by Robert Pokorney, Sue Pavlatos, Josh Nelson and Roger Nieboer. An art-
making piece that the audience can engage in, designed by DAI Executive & Artistic Director Anne Dugan, will also be part of the experience.

“Hat-Trick” will be on view in the DAI John Steffl Gallery April 14 – June 2, 2016.

**About The Depot Foundation**
Both exhibitions are sponsored by The Depot Foundation: Dedicated to preserving the Historic Union Depot as a vibrant and welcoming forum for the arts, culture and history through managing and growing a permanent endowment. Visit [www.depotfoundation.org](http://www.depotfoundation.org) to learn more.

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**Duluth Art Institute Gallery Information**
Galleries are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is always free. Galleries are located on Level Four of the Duluth Depot, 506 W Michigan Street. Parking is available at the Library/Depot Lot, 502 W Michigan Street, with a pay station that includes $1 bills, coins and credit card options; and metered parking is available on city streets. A bus transit center is nearby with year-round access.

**About the Duluth Art Institute**
The Duluth Art Institute is a 108-year-old nonprofit organization—one of the oldest art centers in Minnesota. The mission of the Duluth Art Institute is to enrich daily life with dynamic, innovative visual arts programming that upholds excellence and promotes active community participation. The Duluth Art Institute produces more than a dozen art exhibits each year featuring emerging to professional area artists in three galleries that are always free and open to the public. An Arts Learning Lab provides art books, reference materials, family activity packs, and other opportunities to reflect and engage with what's on view. Free Family Days, youth art camps, and year-round educational programming for children and adults enables beginner to professional artists to develop their art forms and expand their practices. Community resources include painting and multipurpose classroom spaces, a darkroom, ceramics studios, a fiber studio, and professional development services for artists. The Duluth Art Institute also offers enrichment activities throughout the community. For more information, visit [www.duluthartinstitute.org](http://www.duluthartinstitute.org).

*The Duluth Art Institute's programs and services are made possible through the support of contributing members of the Duluth Art Institute, Bush Foundation, Depot Foundation, Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the State Legislature from the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Northland Foundation, and the Wildey H. Mitchell Family Foundation.*