

CREATIVE LOAFING

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Steve Morrison breaks bread in new Eyedrum solo exhibition

'Uneasiness in Culture' features videos, paintings, sculptures, and bread — no, really

CAROLINE COX — JAN. 4, 2017



BREAD AND BETTER: Along with video works, paintings, and sculpture, the artist included pieces made with bread for his solo show at Eyedrum this month. | STEVE MORRISON

Steve Morrison says it's difficult for him to remember a time when he wasn't interested in art. "I always drew as a child," the artist explains, "and I've had a sketchbook permanently in hand since age 11." Growing up in Idaho and Utah without access to a major art museum, Morrison relied on checking out art books from the local public library to familiarize himself with the likes of iconic artists from Vincent van Gogh and Maurice Sendak to Walt Disney.

Morrison's latest solo show, dubbed *Uneasiness in Culture*, opens at Eyedrum on Jan. 14. The exhibition is a mix of video work, paintings, sculptures, and (wait for it) bread. "I sometimes joke that my work is not gluten-free," says Morrison. "Bread has a playful role in my life, but it also has a darker role." Morrison's father suffered with undiagnosed celiac disease when Morrison was growing up. He began using bread as a medium about four years ago because of its visceral, fleshy quality. "When bread rises and falls, it looks like lungs," the artist explains. "I also love that it is a kinetic sculpture — but one that moves so slowly we don't perceive it in real-time." After researching how bread relates to culture and myth throughout history, he came across some passages in the Epic of Gilgamesh (the world's oldest story) that involve magic circles of dream-inducing flour drawn on the earth, which helped inspire the idea for this show.

Morrison says viewers should expect to feel a mix of modern wit and stepping back in time, all interwoven with a mix of imagery, palette, and media. "The work on display in this show has been about three years in the making," he adds, "and I'm very excited to share it with people."

Uneasiness in Culture opening reception, 8-10 p.m., Sat., Jan. 14, Eyedrum Art & Music Gallery, 88 Forsyth St. SW, 770-676-1605, eyedrum.org.