"Kveck, Russ & Stellmon: Break Ups & Tear Downs" at the Barrick Museum, October 23 – January 23, 2015

The UNLV Barrick Museum presents Kveck, Russ & Stellmon: Break Ups & Tear Downs, running from October 23, 2015 – January 23, 2016. These three Las Vegas artists offer unique bodies of work that spring from a common practice of breaking down their subject, then reorganizing and reordering the pieces. The results, whether paintings, collages, photographs or constructions, are stunning and thoughtful revisualizations of contemporary themes. The work of each artist reflects distinct style and technique, perfected during careers as highly regarded professionals.

“This exhibition will be powerful both visually and in social commentary,” says Barrick Museum program director Aurore Giguet. Wendy Kveck incorporates found images from art history, contemporary media, and princess coloring books into her work as cultural signifiers of excess, desire, anxiety, fear, regret, and loss; JK Russ creates surreal landscapes using found images from magazines juxtaposing fashion icons with images from the natural world creating dream like meditations on gender and sexuality; and Erin Stellmon uses mixed media collage to represent the cycle of destruction and rebuilding that we often see in Las Vegas. A public opening reception will be held October 23 from 6 – 8pm.

MORE ABOUT THE ARTISTS:
Wendy Kveck is a visual artist from the Chicago area who lives and works in Las Vegas. Through her work in painting, drawing, collage and performance she examines images of women from art history and contemporary media as cultural signifiers of excess, desire, anxiety, fear, regret and loss. Her interest in performance as a reflective, reactive and transformative action has been stimulated by the examples of early and contemporary feminist artists. In her recent work she has used food and drink imagery to represent women as both consumers and consumed.

JK Russ is an artist from New Zealand who migrated to the United States in 2010 and settled in Las Vegas. She uses cut-paper collage to create investigative contrasts between the bodies of seductive women and imagery of landscape and wildlife. Her style is informed by a longstanding interest in Surrealism, photographic illustration, and the photomontage work of the German Dada artist Hannah Höch (1889 - 1978). The Nevada desert is a current source of inspiration, as are Las Vegas’s burlesque clubs. By eschewing digital manipulation and instead insisting on the deliberate imperfections of the analog process, Russ exploits the ambiguous relationship that the medium of collage naturally establishes between realism and fantasy.
Erin Stellmon is a multi-disciplinary artist from Oregon who lived in Las Vegas for more than a decade. Her community-focused practice explores local manifestations of transience, memory and reinvention. In her mixed-media collage work she frequently emphasizes the visual fragmentation of the compositions in order to highlight the cycles of destruction and reinvention that she perceives are endemic to the Las Vegas municipality’s civic culture.

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**ABOUT THE BARRICK MUSEUM:** The UNLV Marjorie Barrick Museum, a public arts unit under the UNLV Department of Art and the College of Fine Arts, strives to provide a welcoming environment in which students, members of the University community, southern Nevada residents and the public in general can study and learn by directly experiencing works of art. Our goal is to enhance the visitor’s understanding of art as an enduring human endeavor and to promote visual literacy for all patrons. To this end, the Museum acquires, exhibits, interprets and preserves works of art representative of past and present cultures, and artistic creativity.

**ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY:** UNLV is a doctoral-degree-granting institution of 28,000 students and 3,300 faculty and staff. Founded in 1957, the university offers more than 220 undergraduate, master's and doctoral degree programs. UNLV is located on a 332-acre campus in dynamic Southern Nevada and is classified in the category of Research Universities (high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

**BARRICK MUSEUM INFORMATION:** For current program and exhibition information, call 702-895-3381 or visit unlv.edu/barrickmuseum

Hours: Mondays - Fridays: 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Thursdays until 8 p.m. Saturday: 12 p.m.–5 p.m.
Closed Sundays and state and federal holidays.