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Courtesy of the artist.



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## Mortality: A Constant Partner

### 2009 Efroymsen Fellow to speak at Herron School of Art and Design

Casey Riordan Millard is not a morbid person. However, “mortality is a constant partner” in some of her more recent artworks.

She has developed “Shark Girl,” a young woman who has the body of a girl and the head of a shark. Depicting in drawings, ceramics and life-size installations, shark girl often laments her lot in life to the point where she is frozen into inactivity.

With the shark girls and their accompanying imagery, Millard examines the search for solace from the heartbreak of mortality. While we may find temporary distractions in nature, the routine of everyday living and the trappings of Western culture, these distractions are only external. A deeper relief from the human condition must come from within if we wish to ease our fears about our impermanence.

The predicament of Shark Girl is that she never faces her inner turmoil and, instead, continues the outward quest for diversion. While she is sorrowful, wandering and terrified, there is a comic element to this “fish out of water.” Some can relate to Shark Girl in their own pursuits of satisfaction and tranquility.

Millard, a 2009 recipient of an Efroymsen Contemporary Art Fellowship, will present a free public lecture about her art and experiences on **Thursday, February 10 at 12:00 p.m. in the Basile Auditorium of Eskenazi Hall**. She is a Cincinnati-based artist who has exhibited throughout the United States. Her work has been featured in the magazine *New American Painting*, and the book *500 Ceramic Sculptures*.

Millard’s work is also being exhibited in the Robert B. Berkshire and Eleanor Prest Reese Galleries in Eskenazi Hall, Herron School of Art and Design, through February 24.

#### Parking Information

Guests of Herron School of Art and Design should park in the Sports Complex Garage, just west of Herron. Park in the visitor side of the garage and bring your garage ticket to the Herron Galleries for parking validation, courtesy of The Great Frame Up. Parking in the surface lot requires an IUPUI parking permit.