



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Joseph Anderson

Weird Queer Freaky Xmas
December 3 - January 8, 2008



Commentary by Julie Oakes

Joseph Anderson

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Artist Catalog, 'Joseph Anderson - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Joseph Anderson

Julie Oakes

One strong justification for the myths from childhood was to reinforce the awareness of the existence of the two major themes, Good and Evil. The world was made to seem light in the face of these opposing concepts, the illustrations colourful and the stories couched in visually fantastic creations - princes, dragons, giants, and magical animals both beneficent and maleficent. The presentation was glossy, pastel, easily read, entertaining with pop-ups and cut-outs to soften the blows from the bad guys or sweeten the fire from the steamy mouths of the brimstone group (dragons, devils, demons).

Joseph Anderson brings these naïve references up to snuff, to serve as stand-ins for adult realities, often hard core and found within the context of Fine Arts. The subject shifts, slightly. The giant squid carrying off the pale-skinned young men is dappled with an abstract expressionist, painterly coloring that equals the intensity of the squirming octopus abductor. There is the hint of a thrill at the adventure, a sensual identification with the long phallic arms of the victimizer. This gratification from fear has more of the excitement of a challenging extreme sport than a real horrific experience. It is the safe net of vicarious knowledge stretched below the danger to allow for an imaginative participation in a happening that resonates from the memory or dreams. Anderson has also employed the use of cut-outs in his work, making use of the transformative potential like the easy change-of-role that the cut out dolls with their tabbed on clothes could affect. Replete with their two dimensional personalities, his cut out images have the paper thin disposability and hence vulnerability of playthings. The erotic nuances abide however and link the innocence to a type of role playing that allows unspeakable notions to be met square on at least within the visual realities that Art, another great theme, permits.

The work falls between fun and serious parody, an apt metaphorical position for philosophical meanderings. Anderson “wracks the mortal coil” with his dreams and places the simple illustrations from childhood in a more characteristic stance of adult awareness.



Boys With Octopus
watercolour on paper, 38 x 100 inches
2007



Boys With Animals I
watercolour on paper, 5 x 7.5 inches
2007



Boys With Animals 2
watercolour on paper, 7 x 6 inches
2007



Boys With Animals 3
watercolour on paper, 6 x 6 inches
2007



Boys With Animals 4
watercolour on paper, 4.5 x 6 inches
2007



Boys With Animals 5
watercolour on paper, 6 x 4 inches
2007



Boys With Animals 6
watercolour on paper, 8 x 7.5 inches
2007



Boys With Animals 7
watercolour on paper, 4 x 5.5 inches
2007



Boys With Animals 8
watercolour on paper, 5 x 8 inches
2007



Boys With Animals 9
watercolour on paper, 6 x 7 inches
2007



Boys With Animals 10
watercolour on paper, 3.5 x 2.5 inches
2007

Joseph Anderson

Education

University of Saskatchewan, MFA (in progress)

University of Lethbridge, BFA, major in painting, 2000

Medicine Hat College, Visual Communications Diploma, 1998

Solo Exhibitions

2005

Tummy Ache, Le Petit Trianon, Lethbridge

No One Will Know, Red Room Gallery, Lethbridge

2004

Tabernacle, Taber Museum, Taber, Alberta

2003

The Ten Plagues of Alice, Round Street Gallery, Lethbridge

2002

Annunciation, The New Gallery, +15 Window, Calgary

Reverence, Monkey Girl Gallery, Lethbridge

2001

Playthings, Monkey Girl Gallery, Lethbridge

Group Exhibitions

2007

That's So Gay III, Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, Saskatoon

5X7: Five Days Seven Artists, Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, Saskatoon

Hoity-Toity, Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, Saskatoon

2006

Current, Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge

In Sequence, Profiles Public Art Gallery, St. Albert

2005

Return to Sender, Trap\door Artist Run Centre, Lethbridge

Miniature, Gallerie Potemkin, Lethbridge

(Wide) Open House, Gallerie Potemkin, Lethbridge

2004

Anderson & Andrist, Two-Person exhibition with Cheryl Andrist, Cultural Centre Gallery, Medicine Hat

Dollar Store, Gallerie Potemkin, Lethbridge

2003

Your Dearest Wish Will Come True, Two-Person exhibition with Mary-Anne McTrowe, Trianon Gallery, Lethbridge

A Spoonful of Sugar, University of Lethbridge Helen Christou Art Gallery

2001

Pause, Off-site exhibition curated by Michael Campbell for the Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge

Science Fair 2, Gallerie Potemkin, Lethbridge

Here Kitty, Kitty, Monkey Girl Gallery, Lethbridge

2000

Ballroom Dancing Finalists: Annual Juried Student Art Show, Trianon Gallery, Lethbridge

BFA Graduate Show, University of Lethbridge Art Gallery

1999

Annual Juried Student Art Show, University of Lethbridge Art Gallery

1998

Beyond the Line: Graduate Show, Cultural Centre Gallery, Medicine Hat
Christmas Magic, Medicine Hat Museum and Art Gallery

1997

First & Second Year Juried Student Art Show, Cultural Centre Gallery,
Medicine Hat
Cat Themed Art Show, Cultural Centre Gallery, Medicine Hat
Cheesecake & Other Visual Delights, Medicine Hat Museum and Art Gallery

1996

First & Second Year Juried Student Art Show, Cultural Centre Gallery,
Medicine Hat

Other Projects

2004

I feel better (than you), limited edition artist book (Selected for the 2005 Mobilivre Bookmobile Project Tour.)

2003

Illustrations for *Take Me To Your Leader!* by Richard Stevenson
It's the Chance You May Be Waiting For, limited edition artist book (Selected for the 2004 Mobilivre Bookmobile Project Tour.)

2001

You Can Do Better: A colouring book for Good girls & Good Boys, limited edition artist book (Selected for the 2003 Mobilivre Bookmobile Project Tour.)

Awards

Michael Pisko Memorial Award

Collections

Medicine Hat College

Private Collections

RICH FOG



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