



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Bryan Ryley

Abstract (B&W)

September 8 - October 4, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, 'Bryan Ryley - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Telephone/Facsimile: 416-465-7352 Email: info@headbonesgallery.com
Director: Richard Fogarty
www.headbonesgallery.com

Bryan Ryley

Julie Oakes

Bryan Ryley's small charcoal sketches with some collage are visual think tanks, clear and open for observation. The marks, as if moving in a liquid space that is receptive to the meanderings of the creative impulses, reveal a domain where nascent thoughts begin to grow and acquire a form. The gestation period where growth can take a variety of paths before settling into a more absolute form has been made into an intriguing visual.

The work is reminiscent of the diagrammatic compositional overlays used to illustrate the course that the eye would logically take when meandering about a more traditional painting. But Ryley has declined the opportunity to hang the suggested movement on a pictorial frame and allowed the eye to dance without referential fetters. These drawings from the early eighties have a bare boned, no nonsense immediacy as if they were quick responses from the artist through his medium onto the receptive ground. There is an emotional one sidedness in the making, a pushing and pulling, probing and retreating, that results in an encapsulated field of gestures. The marks are evidence of time that Ryley spent with the once virginal sheet of paper. The size reinforces the sense of intimacy. The simplicity of means and spare use of lines and shapes are clues to the duration of the fleeting affair. And always there is the wonder that these loose, gestural outpourings may have developed into more mature relationships between Ryley and his medium, that what we are standing before may have grown and matured into a full grown piece.

There is a link between the work and the process of art-making that the viewer who is an artist responds to whole heartedly. The culling of ideas between the making and the drawing room floor has taken place. Ryley is offering these gestational drawings up for examination, having realised the importance of these small pieces to his overall oeuvre. Purely abstract, they are levelling examples of the link from the maker to the viewer when the artist shows enough of his mind to allow the viewer to become artistically aligned as well.

These small swatch-like drawings reveal the mind space where even the relationship of the collaged chip to the rapid sketch evokes sampling, experimentation and freedom.



Looking On - 1981
charcoal on paper, 5.25 x 6.25 inches



Tighrope Walker - Sorrowful For You - 1981
charcoal/collage on paper, 5.25 x 6.25 inches



Mantis - 1981
charcoal/collage on paper, 6.25 x 5.25 inches



Praying For You - 1981
charcoal on paper, 6 x 5 inches



Untitled I - 1981
charcoal/collage on paper, 6.25 x 5.25 inches



Untitled III - 1981
charcoal on paper, 5.5 x 6.5 inches



Self As Cat - 1981
charcoal/collage on paper, 5.5 x 6.25 inches



Untitled II - 1981
charcoal/collage on paper, 6 x 5.25 inches

Bryan Ryley

Education

Master of Fine Arts (Honours), 1977
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours), 1974
University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia
Graduate Program (Seminar Leader), 1976/77
Contemporary Issues in American Art
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York , New York
Participant, Emma Lake Workshops, 1979/80/81
University of Saskatchewan, Emma Lake, Saskatchewan

Exhibitions

Solo

2007 Upsetting the Clan
Sopa Fine Arts, Kelowna, BC

2005 4 CORNERS : New Paintings and Drawings
Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

2005 2nd CORNER: New Paintings and Drawings
Elins Eaglesmith Gallery, San Francisco, California

2004 A Child of God
Alternator Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2004 Grids
FINA Gallery, Okanagan University College, Kelowna, BC

2003 RED, WHITE & BLUE
Ballard Lederer Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2001 Illumine: Paintings and Sculpture
Ballard Lederer Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2001 Recent Paintings
Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC

2000 Grids: Recent Works
Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary , Alberta

1998 Heaven and Earth: New Paintings & Drawings
Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC
Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

1996 Bury the Abstract Expressionists
Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC
Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

1996 Raven Drawings - for 'Sylvia'
Montgomery Fine Arts, Vancouver, BC

1996 Weather and Tools
Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC

1995/94 Recent Paintings and Drawings
Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

1993 Targets
Xerox BC Open, Predator Ridge Golf Resort, Vernon, BC

1993 Rambling Eye: Drawings 1985-1992
Kelowna Public Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

1992 Legacy - Public Sculpture Commission
City of Vernon, Vernon, BC

1991 Recent Sculpture and Drawings
Szombathy/Charlton, Vernon, BC

1991 Roosters - Vancouver Jazz Festival
Alma Street Cafe, Vancouver, BC

1990 Platforms: New Paintings and Drawings
Kanoui Forbes Gallery, New York, NY

1989 Stock Exchange
Lakewood Art Gallery, Vernon, BC

1988 New Paintings
Grand Forks Art Gallery, Grand Forks, BC

1987/86 Recent Paintings and Drawings
85/84 Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

- 1986 Terrain
Kelowna Public Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC
- 1984 Dog Town Common
Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC
- 1982/81 Paintings and Drawings
Kenneth G. Heffel Fine Art, Inc., Vancouver, BC
- 1979 Emma Lake Paintings
Kelowna Public Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC
- 1978 Fields and Trajectories
Shafter Gallery, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- 1977 Shifting Fields
Canadian Consulate Gallery, New York, NY

Exhibitions Group

- 2006 Border Crossings summer group show
Sopa Fine Arts, Kelowna, BC
- 2006 First Half: New Work,
FINA Gallery, UBCO, Kelowna, BC
- 2006 SOPA Gallery Inaugural Exhibition
SOPA Fine Arts, Kelowna, BC
- 2006 The Drawers Inaugural Exhibition
Headbones Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2006 Galley Artists
Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2005 Inspired By The Land
Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC
- 2004 Faculty Exchange
University of Washington, Pullman, Washington
- 2004 Winter Exhibition
Gallery Odin, Vernon, BC

2003 Defining Abstraction
Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC

2002 Selections
Ballard Lederer Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2002 Faculty Exchange
University of Calgary, Calgary, Alta.

2002 ART BANK - 30th Anniversary Exhibition
Ottawa, Ontario

2001 TRANSlinear: Contemporary Painting in Canada
Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2001 Creative Voice
Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, Penticton, BC

2001 New Abstraction
Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

2000 Collections
Jan Ballard Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2000 Four - Hartman, Molinari, Rogers, Ryley
Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

1999 New Paper Works
Jan Ballard Gallery, Vancouver, BC

1999 Headbones Inaugural
Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC

1998/96 Satyrykon
Legnica, Poland

1998 Selections from the Permanent Collection
Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

1998 Approaching Abstraction
Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, Penticton, BC

1997 Works on Paper
Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

1997 Visuals from Audibles
Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC

1996/97/99 North Okanagan Juried Exhibition
Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC

1996 Stepping Stones: Inaugural Exhibition
Kelowna Public Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

1995/96/97/98 Small Matters
Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC

1995 Defining Feminism
Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC

1994/93 Alumni International
Manhattan Gallery, Pratt Institute, New York, NY
Shafter Gallery, Pratt Institute, New York, NY

1993 Drawings
Paul Kuhn Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

1992 New Acquisitions
PetroCanada Fine Arts Gallery, Calgary, Alberta

1991 Okanagan Open Juried Show
Kelowna Public Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

1991 Studio Watch
Grand Forks Public Art Gallery, Grand Forks, BC

1990 Diversity
Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC

1990 Maskrap
Okanagan Artists Alternative Juried Show, Kelowna, BC

1989 Works on Paper
Edmonton Art Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta

1982 New Additions
Judith Selkowitz Fine Art, New York, NY

- 1981 Emma Lake Artists
Edmonton Art Gallery (traveling), Edmonton, Alberta
- 1980 Young Talent
Russell Sage Gallery, Troy, NY
- 1977 5th International New York Invitational / Canadian Representative.
United Nations, Seagram Building, New York, NY
- 1977 Ford Foundation Recipient Exhibition
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

Awards / Honours

- 2004/05 Extended Study Leave Research Grant Spain / Italy
Okanagan University College, Kelowna, BC
- 2004/02/01 GIA Research Grants
Okanagan University College, Kelowna, BC
- 2000 IBM Canada - Sculpture Commission
Vancouver, BC
- 1992 'Legacy' - Public Sculpture Commission
City of Vernon, Vernon, BC
- 1992 BC Arts Festival - Awards Commission
Government of British Columbia, Victoria, BC
- 1992/91/90/ Purchase Awards
89/88 Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Ontario
- 1988/87 Project Cost Grants
Canada Council, Ottawa, Ontario
- 1977/76 Teaching Assistantship
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
- 1977-75 Rotary International Graduate Fellowship
Rotary International, Evanston, Illinois

Exhibitions Joint

- 1999 Ryley and Craig: Shots at the Self
 Alternator Gallery, Kelowna, BC
- 1993 Ryley and Alcock: Recent Sculpture
 Szombathy Charlton, Vernon, BC
- 1990 Ryley and Suarez: Cartoons and Boxes
 Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, Penticton, BC

Collections

- Racine Art Museum, Racine, Wis.
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY.
Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Ont
BC Arts Policy Collection, Victoria, BC
Kelowna Public Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC
Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC
AGSO Public Art Gallery, Penticton, BC
IBM Canada, Vancouver, BC
PetroCanada, Calgary, Alta.
Shell Canada, Calgary, Alta.
CI&C Bank, Edmonton, Alta.
Royal LePage Investments, Calgary, Alta.
Hiram Walker, Toronto, Ont.
TransAlta, Calgary, Alta.
Private Collections in Canada, United States, Europe, Australia

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