



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Birgit Ruff

Drawer's Selection

February 4, - March 11, 2006



Birgit Ruff

Inaugural Drawer's Selection

December 14, 2005 - February 4, 2006

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Birgit Ruff

Inaugural Drawer's Selection

The "Chemical Wedding" Series

Miniatures draw the viewer closer to the visual in order to participate in the intimacy. Persian miniatures utilized graphic elements, outline and low modeling to clarify the subject. Birgit Ruff does the opposite. Using the literary work *The Chemical Wedding* as her inspiration, she creates the illusion of deep recesses, pools, tunnels, forest glens and labyrinths within the small formats. Her colors are subtle and organic like vegetable dyes. The indigo blues, viridian greens, ochres, siennas and earth tones abide while the reds are cochineals like the backs of beetles. Framed in deep boxes and floating in their glass encasements just above the backing, their fragility is enhanced. They seem too delicate to touch. We might crush the fragile complexity with our clumsy fleshy fingers.

Birgit Ruff has painted with roses. She has pressed their pretty petals on paper until they have surrendered to her manipulations and formed a mandala.

In larger works, organic content with tendrils, organs, veins, leaves and florets map internal systems while the ecological reigns with assurance. There are sexual allusions, not just in her use of the male and female reproductive systems as subjects, but in the generative association of her forms. With rhythmic appropriateness, connections are made between the parts and the whole. The work is balanced, vibrant and at peace, reassuring us in our modern stress that this earthly existence is a nourishing, wondrous one.



By The Well Water
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2003



Untitled
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2003



There Was A Deep Well
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2002



Near The Royal Castle
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2002



Untitled
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.75 x 2.25 in
2003



Untitled
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2003



Untitled
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.75 x 2.25 in
2003



The Well Was Deep
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2002



Under An Old Linden Tree
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2002



What Promised You Me?
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2003



That Which Thou Hast Promised
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2002



Youngest Kings Daughter
watercolor, acrylic, collage and graphite
3.5 x 2.5 in
2003

Birgit Ruff

Artist Statement

One of my fondest childhood memories is listening to records of fairytales at my aunt's house. I listened in awe and wondered as I became one with the world of the imagination. I connected with what Carl Jung would call "the collective archetypes of the unconscious."

The "Chemical Wedding" series draws on this collective fund of dreams, symbols and fantasies. Based on the male and female reproductive systems, biology becomes symbol through abstraction. In large scale, hybrid drawings, I play with notions of transformation and ambiguity by placing these plant-like and vulnerable parts of the human body into dark mysterious environments.

Miniature collages are based on invertebrate anatomy. Individual pieces are given titles alluding to love from the deconstructed texts of "The Frog Prince" and "Sleeping Beauty." Tiny detailed collages are highly textured and ask to be handled; they can be shuffled like tarot cards and placed into relational spreads.

RICH FOG



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