



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Jenny Wing Yee Tong

Results of the Headhunt

April 22 - May 23, 2006



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Jenny Wing Yee Tong

Results of the Headhunt

The placement of a donkey's head on a human body is imbedded in the western lore of fairytales, enchantment and children's stories. For example, Shakespeare had Oberon, king of the forest, bring the fairy Queen Titania back under his amorous sway by placing the braying beast's head upon a player's shoulders and tricking her into an embarrassing liaison with the donkey. Pinocchio was pulled from a path of wrong living by the example of truant boys transformed into donkeys. A brash voice, far from mellifluous, stupidity, slowness and stubbornness are the poor beast's attributes. Its position within the beastly hierarchy has been that of a peon - one of toil and basic portage. But there is also a magical aspect to a donkey that might be based on its potential for transformation. Being so lowly, like frog to prince, the donkey, from its rung down the ladder of evolution when it comes to human enchantments, might be raised and transformed.

The subjects are fabulous, fable-lesque, from fables that Wing Yee has spun from a combination of eastern and western legends. When the butterfly's wing, dusted by fairies, reflects the light of the moon or sun shine bounces on the back of a beetle, Jenny Wing Yee Tong's colors were created. With the pastel overtones of Degas' palette, filaments of luminosity describe fantasies. There are many layers of translucent paint on thin membranes of paper. The Wing Yee palette is primarily pastel. The dense dark fur and solid structure of the donkey when placed in more ethereal contexts stands out as a firm reminder of the propensity to ignore the humble animal. While Jenny's donkey heads maintain their footing within the ephemeral, gossamer environments where candelabras are the pivot for décor, allusions to tales yet untold abound. Wing Yee, with a surefooted delicacy wends her painterly way through nuances of conciliation and the cares of existence dissipate with the flutter of an eyelash or a butterfly kiss preserved on paper, still fragile and dewy with belief, all of our excuses of superiority. Wing Yee embraces the donkey and in doing so is a catalyst for the frog to turn princely.



A Wayward History
Mixed media on vellum
95 x 81 in
2005



Heady Giddy Viddy
Mixed media on paper
7.5 x 5.75 in
2005



Wax Nostalgic
Mixed media on paper
11.5 x 8.5 in
2006



Adolescent
Mixed media on paper
7.5 x 5.75 in
2006



Au Plus Belle Age
Mixed media on vellum
36 x 24 in
2006



The Fatalist
Mixed media on vellum
36 x 24 in
2005



That Winter
Mixed media on paper
10.5 x 8 in
2006



Untitled
Mixed media on vellum
100 x 92 in
2006

Jenny Wing Yee Tong

EDUCATION

- 2004 BFA, *Ontario College of Art and Design* in conjunction with *British Columbia Open University*
- 2004 Part time studies, *University of Toronto*
- 2002 Florence Off-Campus Studies, *Ontario College of Art and Design*
- 2002 Drawing and Painting Major, *Ontario College of Art and Design*

SOLO EXHIBITION

- 2004 "Stari Pictures", *Hart House Arbor Room*, University of Toronto

JURIED EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 "Drawing 2006: 7th Annual Juried Exhibition", *John B. Aird Gallery*, Toronto
- 2005 2005 Juried Exhibition, *Thames Art Gallery*, Chatham
- 25th Anniversary Annual Juried Art Show, *Etobicoke Civic Centre Art Gallery*, Toronto
- "Through the Eyes of the Artist", *The Assembly Hall*, Toronto
- "Drawing 2005: 6th Annual Juried Exhibition", *John B. Aird Gallery*
- 2004 Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto
- Art Hart House Competition 2004, *Justina M. Barnicke Gallery*
- "Drawing 2004: 5th Annual Juried Exhibition", *John B. Aird Gallery*
- 2003 Art Hart House Competition 2003, *Justina M. Barnicke Gallery*
- 6th Annual Figure Drawing & Painting Exhibition, *OCAD Central Hall*, Toronto
- 2001 40th Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, *Nathan Phillips Square*, Toronto

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 "TRŠIC 05" *Galeriji Doma Kulture*, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
"Results of the Headhunt", *Headbones Gallery*, Toronto
- 2005 "TRŠIC 05", *Centar za Kulturu Vuk Karadzic*, Loznica, Serbia and Montenegro
"Atlas Drugged", part of VENDART art vending machine installation, New York City
- 2004 "Implicate Love", *Kabat Wrobel Gallery*, Toronto
"6 point perspective", *Neilson Park Creative Centre*, Toronto
- 2003 "Sweet and Sour", *Gallery 1313*, Toronto
- 2002 "Vignettes", *Gypsy X Bar and Gallery*, Toronto
"Miniaturas", *Acadia Gallery*, Toronto
Distillery District Outdoor Art Exhibition, *Gooderham & Worts Distillery*, Toronto
"More and More Curious", *Art System*, Toronto
"Unrelated Exposures", *XO*, Florence, Italy
- 2001 "Borderlands", *Wagner Rosenbaum Gallery*, Toronto
"Gallery 39 and Recent Prints from OCAD", *Belleville Public Library Art Gallery*, Belleville

COLLECTIONS

In the public collections of *Centar Za Kulturu Vuk Karadzic*, Town Museum of Loznica, Serbia and Montenegro.

Private collections in Toronto, Ottawa, and Florence, Italy.

PUBLICATION & MEDIA

- 2005 Thames Art Gallery 2005 Juried Exhibition catalogue
- 2004 Interview and coverage of "Implicate Love" in Ming Pao Daily, July 8 edition, A13
Double Portrait: Part II, cover image, Asian North American Identities Beyond the Hyphen, collection of critical essays edited By Eleanor Ty and Donald C. Goellnicht
- 2003 "Sweet and Sour" exhibition coverage, *CBC-TV Evening News*
Interview with "Visual Voice Radio", *CIUT 89.5FM* on January 23
"Double Pinocchio" image featured in galleries section, Now Magazine

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- 2006 Visual Arts Project Grant, *Ontario Arts Council*
- 2005 Visual Arts Travel Grant, *Canada Council for the Arts*
- 2004 Art Hart House Competition, Honorable Mention, *Hart House Art Committee*
- 2003 Art Hart House Competition, Honorable Mention, *Hart House Art Committee*
- 2001 David L. Stevenson & Son Award, *Ontario College of Art and Design*
- 2001 Charles Magee Memorial Tuition Scholarship, *OCAD Lever Pond's Award*, *OCAD*
- 2000 Printmaking Award, *OCAD*
- 2000 Aboveground Art Supplies Award, *OCAD*
Friends of OCAD Scholarship, *OCAD*
- 1998 Renaissance Visual Arts Award, *Albert Campbell Collegiate Institute*

A Wayward History

A Wayward History is my current project. The “history” of the title offers a point of entry into a game of invention we often play when remembering events of the past. As places and people once a part of our lives recede into actual inaccessibility, the replay of images in memory becomes a site onto which powerful emotions and desires are projected.

Countering the wish for and the striving towards veracity, our remembrances are inflected each time by factors contingent upon the present; the “facts” of our experience become discrete index points by which our reading is guided but not determined. Our recollections are continuously revised, revived, and made plastic. By referencing the atmosphere and tropes of theatre and fable stories, collections of personal memorabilia, and the tradition of successively painted and destroyed frescos, the series probes nostalgia's role as active agent in recasting memories and personal histories.

Jenny Wing yee Tong

RICH FOG



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