



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Jesus Mora

Narrative?

March 18, - April 20, 2006



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Jesus Mora

Narrative?

'Alien' has the overriding association of 'strange' because we link the word to outer space but it is also applied to foreigners who are not yet a subject of the land in which they are occupying. A method of dealing with alienation is to live with mementos from the homeland. To bring signification of the other culture into the framework of the new land not only comforts the individual but also displays the wealth of his heritage. Jesus Mora's work is rich with references to Mexico. They are also projections onto paper of alien universes, free floating without the orientation of gravity yet bejeweled with historical symbols. When placed in the context of the watercolor space, patterns taken from Mayan temples look like a code from another planet and seem to reinforce the rumors that the ancient civilization came from outer space. The cosmic tales of an ancient invasion that float like rumors around our sci-fi awareness come alive in Mora's work.

A similar free association comes from Jesus Mora's use of corn silk. Like a super fine brush, the silk leaves marks that appear to be tunnels made by a burrower. They resemble inscribed Mayan and Aztec gold. Made from maize they form mazes and the possibility that the ancient alphabet might have been born from a similar happenstance seems a possibility.

Despite the invitation to fantasize, the work is grounded. Jesus Mora's water color scrolls have the atmospheric softness of a Chinese brush painting. On top of this, Jesus records his transplanted memories of other places. The pencil and ink marks attach themselves to the floating gelatinous masses as if they are reproducing in ethereal space. They sprout. They peak out at us. The clouds of gentle tonalities seem to part and small beings are disturbed, caught by a fleeting glimpse like a microscopic revelation.

It is difficult to encapsulate effervescence. Jesus Mora's art, like a fizzy drink delivered a little warm and then shaken with the excitement of opening, broadcasts sparkles.



Jellyfish
watercolour and ink on paper
14"x10"
2002



Trois Pistoles
watercolour and ink on paper
10"x14"
2004



Figures
watercolour and ink on paper
15"x12"
2004



Snakes and Mayan #'s
watercolour and ink on paper
10"x14"
2002



Freedom and Childhood
watercolour and ink on paper
14"x10"
2002



Planets
watercolour and ink on paper
10"x14"
2002



Unknown
watercolour and ink on paper
10"x14"
2002



Française
watercolour and ink on paper
14"x10"
2002



Piropos / Flattery
watercolour and ink on paper
20"x27"
2002



Astronaut
watercolour and ink on paper
20"x27"
2005



Scorpio
watercolour and ink on paper
14"x8ft
2004



Untitled
watercolour and ink on paper
42"x9ft
2004

Jesus Mora

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2005 Canadian Heritage Ontario Region office, "Fluid Expression" Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Gallery 1313, "Alternatives", Process Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Centro Cultural Agora del Parque Naucalli, "Contornos", Mexico

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 Galerie Bertossini "Works on paper", Toronto
- 2005 Galerie Bertossini, "Joy", Toronto
- 2005 Engine Gallery, "XXXmas Show", Toronto
- 2005 OCAD Atrium, "Who dun ?t", Toronto
- 2005 Martin Kletzel Gallery, "Toronto International Art Fair", Canada
- 2005 John B. Aird Gallery, "Open Water 80", CSPWC, Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Studio Taller, "Open Studio" Arts Week, Toronto, Canada
- 2005 175 Bloor Street Atrium, "Collective Metropolis", Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Off the Map Gallery, "Life in the Bike Lane", Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Espace Perspective, "Kaleidoscope", Montreal, Canada
- 2005 Awol Gallery, "Square Foot", Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Vita brevis studio/gallery, "Figurative show", Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Gallery Jigsaw, "Opening Show", Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Gallery 61 "Our Roots & Beyond", Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Galerie Bertossini, "The Grand Opening", Toronto, Canada
- 2005 Etobicoke Civic Centre, "Latinoamerica 2005", Toronto
- 2004 Engine Gallery, "2nd Annual Christmas Show", Toronto
- 2004 Xpace, "Auction Show", Toronto, Canadá
- 2004 OCAD Atrium, "Who dun ?t", Toronto
- 2004 OCAD Gallery, "Earthly expressions", Toronto
- 2004 Convention Center, "HispanoAmerican Expo", Toronto
- 2004 Studio Taller, "Water Borne", ArtsWeek, Toronto
- 2004 Sacred Voice Gallery, Junction Arts Festival, Toronto
- 2004 The Marilyn Brewer Community Space, "Photo Op!", Toronto
- 2004 Nathan Phillips Square, "Toronto Outdoors Art Show", Toronto
- 2004 OCAD, "Graduate Show", Toronto
- 2004 Centro Civico del Zaidin, "Muestra Internacional", Granada, Spain
- 2004 Gallery 1313, "Ebb & Flow", Toronto
- 2004 Art Company Inc., "Go west", Toronto
- 2004 Etobicoke Civic Centre, "Latino America", Toronto
- 2004 Propeller, "Ambrosia", Toronto

- 2003 Propeller "\$99 Cash and Carry Fundraiser", Toronto
- 2003 OCAD Atrium, "Who dun ?t", Toronto
- 2003 OCAD Official opening of new building, "Waw", Toronto
- 2003 OCAD Gallery, "Architectural Dialects", Toronto
- 2003 Awol Gallery, "The Square Foot", Toronto
- 2003 Nathan Phillips Square, "Toronto Outdoors Art Show", Toronto
- 2003 Java Giovanile, "Moduli multipli", Florence, Italy
- 2003 OCAD studio, "Dentro la Imagine", Florence, Italy
- 2002 Java Giovanile, "Moduli multipli", Florence, Italy
- 2002 St. Stephen's Employment Centre, Toronto
- 2002 Annex "Art Show Patio", Toronto
- 2002 City Hall, "Multicultural", Toronto
- 2002 OCAD, "Annual Student Exhibit", Toronto
- 2002 The Cameron House, "Urban Environment", Toronto
- 2002 L'Arte, "Vision Weaver", Toronto
- 2002 Acadia Gallery, "Fronteras/Frontiers", Toronto

AWARDS

- 2004 CSPWC Julius Griffith Memorial Award
- 2004 Gallery 76
- 2004 Cultural Association "Valentin Ruiz Aznar", Granada, Spain
Third Prize Ex-Aequo.

Reviews/ Publications/ Interviews

- 2005 The Globe and Mail / Review of "Alternatives" exhibition at 1313 Gallery
- 2005 Excelsior / Article of exhibition at Agora Naucalli, Mexico
- 2004 Toronto Sun / Interview for Article on the Day of the Death, Harbourfront
- 2004 Artery Magazine / People on Focus

EDUCATION

- Ontario College Of Art & Design, Diploma Drawing & Painting, Toronto
- 02-03 Ontario College Of Art & Design, Florence program, Italy
- 1999 Toronto Board of Education, Illustration & Cartooning, Toronto
- 1998 Toronto School of Art, Life Drawing and Life Painting, Toronto
- 1996 Casa de la Cultura, Drawing & Painting, Mexico
- 1996 Unidad Cuahutemoc, Drawing, Mexico
- 1992 Kodak, Black & White Photography, Mexico

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, Vatican, Venezuela

RICH FOG



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