



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Rae Johnson

Results of the Headhunt

April 22 - May 23, 2006



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Artist Catalog, 'Rae Johnson - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Rae Johnson

Results of the Headhunt

These drawings, depicting Rae Johnson's daughter, bring the subject towards us with a tentative introduction and then pull back and fold the image into a misty backdrop. They grant a glimpse of youthful beauty and then retract the offering as if by exposing too much the gift of identification will be misused. The movement (coming forward and then backing off) is caught up in coolness, more like the frosty smoke of dry ice than the shimmer of a heat wave that one might be more inclined to associate with young loveliness. Instead, there is a trace of melancholy in the dark circles around the eyes. The face itself, with a milky white obliteration of gesso, hints at the inevitability of aging - a revelation that hangs around young adults, originating not from them but from the glance of the looker, the glance imbedded in maturity and unavoidably tainting all of the crowning vistas grey. With the technical expertise (Rae Johnson is an accomplished painter) to exercise the criticism of a full spectrum, her determined use of black and white harkens back to an aesthetic that deals in memories, simpler statements of worth and a more easily satisfied record keeping. Is this work so infused with attachment that the overriding slowness in the image is the result of a hesitation to give over her child? Is the artist balking at gifting these images of her daughter to the adult world of fine arts where it may be coolly examined by strangers?

Rae Johnson drips and smears quietly but effectively. She holds the intrusion at arm's length. Just as Gerhard Richter's blur seems the by-product of fast motion, so Rae Johnson's blur seems like the frame has slowed down. The voices, were the heads to speak, would be muffled and lugubrious. There is a dream-like quality in the lack of focus with a semblance of psychic fear, like a visitation from Edward Munch while perusing faded photographs of lost family.

In the digital series, the fleeting capture of private disaster is made even more unbelievable by the wax glazes that Rae Johnson uses to place her hand print on digitally altered television stills. Rae's "sensualization" of the public moment doesn't necessarily reveal what it is that is being witnessed. She seems to mistrust the media's coverage and so delivers an even more dubious detour from reality without giving the route back to the main road.

As layered emotionally and psychologically as it is physically, the work tunes Munch-ian angst into a current channel.



Joslyn Head #1
acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in
2006



Joslyn Head #2
acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in
2006



Joslyn Head #3
acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in
2006



Joslyn Head #4
acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in
2006



Joslyn Head #5
acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in
2006



Joslyn Head #6
acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in
2006



Screaming Man
digital print, oil and wax
22 x 30 in
2006



Bathtub Head
digital print, oil and wax
22 x 30 in
2006



Audrey Hepburn
digital print, oil and wax
11 x 8 in
2006



Man With Gun
digital print, oil and wax
8 x 11 in
2006



Anonymous Woman on Street
digital print, oil and wax
8 x 11 in
2006



Woman With Ghost Head
digital print, oil and wax
8 x 11 in
2006

Rae Johnson

Education

1. AOCA, Ontario College of Art, 1980
2. New School of Art, Toronto, 1975 - 76

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2003 Waterloo, Art Gallery of University of Waterloo Rae Johnson/Stand
2000 Peterborough, Art Gallery of Peterborough
Rae Johnson
1999 Toronto, Paul Petro Contemporary Art
Dream Girl
1998 Toronto, Lonsdale Gallery
Rae Johnson Observation: Lake Winnipeg & Flesherton Pond
1997 Toronto, Paul Petro Contemporary Art
Winter Paintings CE96
1996 Woodstock, The Woodstock Art Gallery
Momentary Resolution
1995 Toronto, Paul Petro @ 179 John Street
Bambino Miracolo
1995 Toronto, The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto
Immediate Environment
1994 Toronto, 100 Yonge Street, Scotia Bank Tower, Paul Petro Contemporary Art
Rae Johnson
1993 Roma, Italia. The Canadian Cultural Centre
Bambino Miracolo
1990 Oakville, Oakville Galleries: Centennial Gallery
Rae Johnson
1990 North Bay, W.K.P. Gallery, North Bay Arts Centre
Rae Johnson
1990 Sudbury, Laurentian University Museum and Arts Centre
Rae Johnson: Paintings
1989 Toronto, Carmen Lamanna Gallery
Rae Johnson: Paintings
1988 Ottawa, Gallery 101
Kinesthetic Transformations
1988 Toronto, Carmen Lamanna Gallery
Nature Paintings
1986 Owen Sound, Tom Thompson Memorial Art Gallery
Paintings: Rae Johnson

1986 Simcoe, Lynwood Arts Centre
Paintings: Rae Johnson
1985 Sault Ste. Marie, Art Gallery of Algoma Rae Johnson
1984 Toronto, Carmen Lamanna Gallery
Rae Johnson
1984 London, Ontario, Embassy Cultural House
Drawings 1984
1983 Toronto, The Carmen Lamanna Gallery
Rae Johnson ³Pleasure²
1982 Toronto, Mercer Union
Madonna: Rae Johnson Paintings - 1980 - 1982
1981 Toronto, The Cameron Public House
The Cameron Suite
1981 Toronto, The Lacemaker's Gallery
It's OK, you can look at the camera
1979 Toronto, A Space
Paintings: Rae Johnson

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2006 Toronto, Headbones Gallery. Results of the Headhunt.
2006 Toronto, Loop Gallery. TrueSpectrumTDot. curated by Oliver Girling.
2006 Toronto, Gladstone Hotel. Joy of Painting. curated by Katherine Mulherin.
2006 Toronto, Fran Hill Gallery .Now Now.
2005 Banff, Alberta. Banff Centre for the Arts. Where the Heart Lies.
2005 St. John's, James Baird Gallery. In memory of Lynne Donaghue, self-portraits...
2004 Toronto, Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, The Hon. James K. Bartleman. Diversity.
OCAD Drawing & Painting Faculty
2004 St. John's, James Baird Gallery. Nov. - Dec. John Hartman, James Lahey, ...
2003 Toronto, Edward Day Gallery. Dislocated. Gretchen Sankey, Kate Wilson, Shary Boyle.
2003 Toronto, WARC. Motherlode.
2002 Toronto, Toronto Arts Council. Art in the Workplace at Toronto Arts Council.
2002 Toronto, University of Toronto Art Gallery. Paintings from the permanent collection.
2000 Guelph, MacDonald Stewart Art Centre. Tim Jocelyn and Chromazone: New Acquisitions.
1999 Montreal, Galerie d'art Leonard & Bina Ellen, Concordia University. New Acquisitions
1999 Peterborough, Art Gallery of Peterborough Taken from Nature
1998 Saint Catherines, Rodman Hall Eight - Ronald, Johnson, Weir, Wagman, MacGregor
1998 Oshawa, Robert McLaughlin Gallery Monumental New City: Art and Community

(1980 - 85)

(abbreviated version of original Mercer Union, 1996)

1998 Montreal, Paul Petro Contemporary Art Wonderland a Montreal

1998 Banff Alberta, Banff Centre for the Arts Pink

1997 Toronto, Paul Petro @ 100 Yonge Street Exquisite ChromaZone

1997 Peterborough, The Art Gallery of Peterborough The Poetry of a Chosen Site

1997 Owen Sound, The Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery New Acquisitions

1996 Toronto, Mercer Union The Monumental New City: Art and Community (1980 - 85)

1995 Toronto, 80 Spadina Twist - Goldstein, Podeswa, Liros, Johnson

1995 Toronto, Hart House Eight - Ronald, Johnson, Wier, Wagman, MacGregor

1993 Toronto, Mercer Union Project Room Series: Rae Johnson and Tom Dean

1993 Toronto, Ontario Place Kumbaya: Aids Benefit

1991 Toronto, Carmen Lamanna Gallery John Brown, Marc Deguerre, Rae Johnson

1991 Toronto, Red Head Working Drawings

1991 Owen Sound, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery Sacred and Secular Sites

1990 Owen Sound, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery Landscape and Gender

1988 Toronto, Queen's Park, The Office of the Premier of Ontario, David Peterson

Carmen Lamanna and Avrom Isaacs Gallery Artists

1987 Owen Sound, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery The Painted Room

1985 Zurich, Switzerland. Galerie Walcheturm ChromaZone: Fire and Ice

1985 Quebec City, Quebec, La Gallerie ObscureChromaZone / Chromatique (provincial touring exhibition)

1985 Toronto, Carmen Lamanna Gallery Gallery Artists

1985 Toronto, Harbourfront, Art Gallery of Harbourfront Calm, Luxury, Riot

1984 Toronto, Art Gallery of Ontario Toronto Painting Œ84 (national touring exhibition)

1984 Cobourg, Art Gallery of Northumberland Art and Audience

1984 Burlington, Burlington Cultural CentreThe Figure: A Selection of Canadian Painting

1983 - 84

(national touring exhibition)

1984 Ottawa, Gallery 101Desire

1983 Toronto, Chromazone. (at the colonnade) Chromaliving

1983 Regina, Saskatchewan. Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery ChromaZone/ Chromatique (national touring exhibition)

1983 Toronto, Canadian National Exhibition Attitude

1983 Toronto, ChromaZone Re - Zoning

1983 Toronto, Art Gallery of Ontario, Art Rental Gallery Critic's Choice

1983 New York City, N. Y., U. S. A., 49th Parallel

Commentary 1982 - 83: John Brown, Joanne Tod, Rae Johnson, Marc Deguerre

1982 West Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, Das Institut Unzeit

O KromaZone: Die Anderen Von Kanada

1982 Toronto, Art Toronto CE82 (held at Exhibition Place)
Toronto International Art Fair New Directions : Toronto / Montreal
1982 Toronto, Y Y Z (jointly held at A Space, ChromaZone, Gallery CE76, and Y Y Z)
Monumenta
1981 Toronto, ChromaZone. Mondo Chroma inaugural exhibition
1981 Toronto. ChromaZone. Destroy Those Pictures
1981 London, Ontario. London Regional Art Gallery Young Contemporaries CE80
1981 Co - founded ChromaZone gallery, at 320 Spadina Avenue,
Toronto. ³ ChromaZone has been a catalyst to the 1980's in Toronto. It was the first
gallery to take a
serious interest in the new figurative art that has come to typify the decade. ³ by Richard
Rhodes. c. 1983
Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery, catalogue essay, ChromaZone / Chromatique.
1978 Toronto, A Space. Work
Academic Appointments:
1988 - Associate Professor , Faculty of Art, OCAD, Toronto
1985 - 86 Sessional Instructor , Fine Art Department, Guelph University, Guelph
1983 - 84 Instructor, Arts' Sake Inc., Toronto
Conferences, Workshops, and Invited Lectures:
1984 - 1990 Artists with their Work Program: Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.
2006 faculty representative, OCAD, for Canadian Art Colleges residency at Banff Centre
for the Arts.
2005 slide lecture , York University , Painting Dept. graduate students.
2003 slide lecture, University of Waterloo, Rae Johnson/Stand.
2003 slide lecture, Toronto School of Art, Canadian Art History course. Rae Johnson works
from 1976 to
the present and ChromaZone: a return to figurative art in the CE80's in Toronto.
2001 slide lecture, MacDonald Stewart Art Centre, Rae Johnson, ChromaZone.
2000 slide lecture, Art Gallery of Peterborough, Rae Johnson.
2000 guest curator, BFA Graduate Exhibition, Barrie, Ontario.
1999 slide lecture, Canadian Art Series, Chapters Bloor & Yonge, Toronto. the work of Rae
Johnson.
1999 guest artist, lectures and slide presentations , ChromaZone/Chromatique;
Rae Johnson:1986-99 Bishop's University, Sherbrooke, Quebec.
1999 lecture and slide presentation , Taken From Nature, Art Gallery of Peterborough.
1998 Senior Artist, 5 week residency, Women and Paint, Banff Centre for the Arts .
1996 lecture, Tom Thomson, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery,
1996 lecture , Momentary Resolution, The Woodstock Art Gallery.
1995 lecture, Immediate Environment, The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, U of
Toronto.

1995 lecture, Tom Thomson, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa.
1991 guest artist, BFA critique panel, Mount Allison University , Sackville, New Brunswick.
1991 slide lecture, Rae Johnson and Joanne Tod, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: (Entries in reference books only)

The 2000 Canadian Encyclopedia World Edition, CD-ROM. McClelland & Stewart, Canada. c. 2000
Visions: Contemporary Art in Canada. Vancouver/Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1983.
Contemporary Canadian Art. Edmonton : Hurtig Publishers Ltd., 1983.
Toronto Painting CE84. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. 1984.
Art, Sight and Language. Penumbra Press. c. Moorehouse 1989.
Confessions of a Curator : Adventures in Canadian Art. Dundurn Press. c. Joan Murray 1996.
Tom Thomson : The Last Spring. Dundurn Press. c. Joan Murray 1994.
³Kanada: Ein Land In der Schweben.² Die Horen (Zeitschrift für Literatur, Kunst und Kritik), Herausgegeben von Kurt Morawietz, Hanover. 31 Jahrgang, Band 1/ 1986, Ausgabe [4].

CATALOGUES, MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS (selected 1993 - 2004):

Brooks, Sharon (curator). Project Room Series 6: Rae Johnson and Tom Dean. Mercer Union, Toronto¹⁹³.
Dault, Gary Michael. Poetry in black and light. The Globe and Mail (Toronto), Aug. 9, 2003.
Dault, Gary Michael. Rae Johnson at Paul Petro Contemporary Art, The Globe and Mail (Toronto), Oct. 16, 1999.
Folland, Tom. Stephen Andrews, Rae Johnson. Canadian Art. (Toronto), Spring 2000.
Goldstein, Sybil, ed. The Art of Tim Jocelyn. McClelland & Stewart. 2002.
Jordan, Betty Ann. Wonderland artists look at womanhood. The Globe and Mail, Saturday, Oct. 18, CE97.
Mark, Lisa. Getting our hands dirty. C magazine (Toronto), fall issue, 1998.
Mays, John B. Passionate Brushwork: A brief love affair. The Globe and Mail, Nov. 1, 2003.
Olanick, Natalie & Folland, Tom. The Monumental New City: Art and Community. Mercer Union, Toronto CE96. Podedworny, Carol. Rae Johnson/Stand: Moments from the Flesherton Pond and Ghost Plane Series. U of Waterloo P. (Waterloo), 2002.
Redhill, Michael. Brick # 72 - A Literary Journal. (Toronto) issue 72, winter 2003
Sullivan, Rosemary. Anthology of Literature. (cover) (London) Oxford UP, 2002.

Film and Video Documentation:

Segatto, Loraine. ³Queen West². Documentary about the CE80's music and art scene,

Toronto. 2001.

History Channel. ³Robert Markle². The Canadians with Patrick Watson. 2002.

C B C Sunday Arts. ³Local Color². (3 / 4² video) c. 1994.

Grieve, Neil. ³²Neo - Toronto². (16 mm) c. 1989.

Rubin, Shaila. ³ Bambino Miracolo². (3 / 4² video) c. Rome, 1993.

Shatalow, Peter. ³Brushes². (3 / 4² video) c. 1991.

PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS:

University of Toronto, Toronto

Hart House, University of Toronto, Toronto

MacDonald Stewart Art Centre, Guelph

Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery, Owen Sound

Art Gallery of Mississauga, Mississauga

Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa

Universite Concordia, Montreal

Art Bank, Ottawa

University of Waterloo, Waterloo

Art Gallery of Peterborough, Peterborough

C I B C, Toronto

Noranda , Toronto

Melloy Management, Toronto

McDonald's Corporation, Toronto

Xerox Canada, Toronto

AWARDS AND GRANTS:

Canada Council Grants:

1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1990

Ontario Arts Council Grants:

1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1990, 1995

Gold Award : Chicago International Film Festival 1985.

(poster design, independant film catagory, ³No Sad Songs², by Nick Sheehan.)

RICH FOG



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