



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Robert Bigelow

Inaugural Drawer's Selection

December 14, 2005 - February 4, 2006



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Robert Bigelow

Inaugural Drawer's Selection

The channel between the physical world and the spiritual world for Robert Bigelow is ART. If art and religion were similar, there would be a practice to support this association - an artistic practice similar to the devotions of a priest in order to tune into the spiritual state.

When spirituality is manifest in great works of art, it provokes a reverence for the phenomenal object. Sometimes, that connection is made through a chaotic energy. Basquiat would be an example where, the street smart, pop savvy, self destructive associations that made up Basquiat's life, and hence his particular knowledge abstraction, passes through a referential phase. If the practice and devotional habits are pure, and the mind is sharp and connected to a holistic center, then the resultant visuals reveal the spirit realm.

This process, for Robert Bigelow, is *Abstract Automatism*. His hand is the channel from which his awareness of the spiritual visual realm is brought into this physical world. Each art piece is a visual record of a mind state. There are, of course, conscious decisions made during the transmission of this automatic imagery. Robert chooses a blue or a red, a black or yellow. He chooses his implement, a brush, pen, pencil - of varying sizes. He tapes his chosen paper to a board. All of these are actions born from the physical world. But the images themselves, that which we see as energetic swirls and markings originate outside of logic.

Robert practice has been honed through meditation, vegetarianism, a perception of toxicity and a resultant correction towards clean air and healthful living. Just as Basquiat's street savvy comes through his abstraction, Bigelow's refined lifestyle serves to present his wisdom of the spiritual realms. The work that results from his practice gives back to the viewer a rich and complex positivism. It sets up a map of visual freedom that grants permission to wander the spirals, color fields, dizzy depths and convoluted space with an independent mind. Robert Bigelow's paintings are a sci-fi journey with a lifeline firmly rooted in the traditions and practices of the art world.



Mating Dance
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in



Feel the Heat
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in



Comic Strip Science
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in



Affectionately Attached
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in



Turning Point
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in



Right to Left
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in



How Deep is Deep?
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in



Smooth Sailing
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in



Drifting Apart
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in



Ice Hot
Acrylic on paper
30 x 22 in

Robert Bigelow

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1999 Vernon Art Gallery, Vernon, B.C.
- 1997 Pengah Gallery, Vancouver, B.C.
- 1997 Headbones Gallery, Vernon, B.C.
- 1994 Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 1993 Simon Fraser Gallery, Burnaby, B.C. (Two-person Show)

- 1987 Galeria de Arte "Domingo Ravenet," Havana, Cuba
- 1983 Galerie Don Stewart, Montreal, Quebec
- 1982 Don Stewart Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
- 1982 Sir George Williams Art Gallery, Montreal, Quebec
- 1981 Galerie Don Stewart, Montreal, Quebec
- 1971 Canadian Art Gallery, Calgary, Alberta
- 1969 The University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta
- 1968 Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.
- 1966 Gallery 66, Los Angeles, California

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1997/98/99 Headbones Gallery, Vernon, B.C.
- 1995 Hollyhock Summer Show, Cortes Island, B.C.
- 1994 San Diego Art Institute, 4th Annual Juried Exhibition, San Diego, California
- 1993 The Boston Printmakers' 44th North American Print Exhibition, Boston, Mass.
- 1993 "Collaborative Drawings," Malaspina Gallery, Vancouver, B.C.
- 1991 "The Works," Award "Jurors' Choice," Alberta Printmakers Society, Edmonton, Alta.
- 1991 The Boston Printmakers' 43rd North American Print Exhibition, Boston, Mass.
- 1991 Medicine Hat Print Show (Travelling Show), Medicine Hat, Alberta
- 1991 "25th Anniversary Exhibition," University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

- 1983 "Acquisitions 82-83," The University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.
- '79/81/85/88/90 Faculty Show, Concordia University Gallery, Montreal, Quebec
- 1980 Galerie Don Stewart, Montreal, Quebec
- 1975 "Prints and Drawings from the West Coast," Travelling Show, Canada
- 1974 "Six Faculty Otis Art Institute," Otis Art Institute Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 1972 Print Show, Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham, England
- 1971 "Contemporary Prints and Drawings," Hartnell College Art Gallery, Salinas, California
- 1970 "Contemporary American Prints," Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois
- 1969, 1970 Graphic Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 1967, 1969 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, B.C.
- 1968 The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.
- 1967 Douglas Gallery, Vancouver, B.C.
- 1967 "Young Printmakers Exhibition" (Travelling Exhibition), Herron School of Art
Indiana University, Indianapolis
- 1965,1966 Gallery 66, Los Angeles, California

PUBLICATIONS

- 1980 Reconciliation Elergy, Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.
- 1980 Painter and the Printer, The American Federation of Arts

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon
 Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Bob Blackburn Collection, New York, New York
 Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts
 Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California
 Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York

National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.
Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, California
The Canada Council Art Bank
Bank of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec
Mercantile Bank, Montreal, Quebec
Shell Canada, Calgary, Alberta
Air Canada, Montreal, Quebec
Secal (Alcan), Montreal, Quebec
Steinberg Ltd., Montreal, Quebec
Nova Corp., Calgary, Alberta
Art Centre, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton

COLLABORATED WITH:

Josef Albers	Masuo Ikeda	Tony Onley
Anthony Benjamin	Alien Jones	George Ortman
Roy De Forest	Ellsworth Kelly	Joe Raffaele
Jim Dine	Frank Lubdell	Robert Rauschenberg
Sam Francis	Man-Ray	Ben Shan
Joe Goode	Robert Motherwell	Frank Stella
Richard Hamilton	Bruce Nauman	David Hockney
Claes Oldenburg		

GRANTS

1987	CASA Grant
1970	Canada Council Grant Renewal
1969	Canada Council Grant
1966	Ford Foundation Grant, Tamarind Lithography Workshop

EDUCATION

1995 (8 mos.)	Linnaea Ecological Gardening Program (Includes Permaculture Design)
1963, 1967	BFA (Major in Painting), Chouinard Art Institute. Los Angeles, California
1966	University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico

RICH FOG



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