



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Tom Wren

Drawer's Selection

February 4, - March 11, 2006



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Artist Catalog, 'Tom Wren - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Tom Wren

Inaugural Drawer's Selection

Tom Wren is a bad boy. He makes fun of people. He puts beards on ladies and dresses men up in polka dotted dresses with yellow knee highs. Sometimes, he's even mean to his characters - scratching out their faces and spattering blobs of muck on them. Tom Wren's surfaces in the developed works reference the patinas of time, stressed and seemingly dirtied. They appear to have been left out in the rain or soiled by the oily touch of ancient fingers.

Living in Vancouver East, near the denizens and misfits, he harnesses the fringes and spans. He also empathizes and it is in his ability to grant dignity that his work touches us, much as the classic comedies lent relief to the tragedies and gave voice to feelings too tender to speak of seriously.

Studies for Fashion Victims pokes fun at the industry, but not at the people. The little blue-gray characters are proud of how they look - insanely proud. Their clothes, the fashion, are inconsequential. They know that they look terrific and their faces as the focus of Wren's attention, declare it. Whether it is a sultry one eyed 'come hither' glance, a gleeful, skipping run for the picture, a smiling declaration of individuality, or the humble, stooped pride of an aging profile; these 'fashion victims' provoke ardor. They're doted upon.

An avatar of alternative imagery, Tom Wren's work resonates (his characters are all too familiar) and serves as a reminder of our unsubstantial posturing.



Fashion Victim 1
watercolor on board
6.25 x 7.75 in
2005



▣ *Study for Fashion Victims #1*
watercolor on paper
6 x 4 in
2005



Study for Fashion Victims #2
watercolor on paper
6 x 4 in
2005



■ Study for Fashion Victims #3
watercolor on paper
6 x 4 in
2005



Study for Fashion Victims #4
watercolor on paper
6 x 4 in
2005



Study for Fashion Victims #5
watercolor on paper
6 x 4 in
2005



Study for Fashion Victims #6
watercolor on paper
6 x 4 in
2005



Study for Fashion Victims #7
watercolor on paper
6 x 4 in
2005



Study for Fashion Victims #8
watercolor on paper
6 x 4 in
2005



Study for Fashion Victims #9
watercolor on paper
6 x 4 in
2005

Tom Wren

EDUCATION

1987 Graduated with Honours, . Emily Carr College of Art and Design

AWARDS

1987 Carter-Begg Scholarship Merit Award (Graduating Class)

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2005 ANTIC: a toy, a trifle, un petit joujou, ArtSpeak

2004 REVELATIONS, Grunt Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2001 Human Improvements with Geoff Carter, Tom Wren, Hadley Howes + Maxwell Stephens Propellor, Vancouver, BC

1995 GOLDEN MEMORIES - Group Show, Headbones Gallery, . Vernon BC

WALL TO WALL - Group Show, Or Gallery, Vancouver BC

CURRENTS - Group Show, L'Atelier, Vancouver, BC

GASOLINE DREAMS - Two Man Show AT Gallery, Vancouver BC

1992 A WALK IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD - Solo Show, The Grunt Gallery

1991 CUT-OUTS - Three Man Show, The Tahiti an Room, Waldorf Hotel, Vancouver BC

1990 DOLLS ON DISPLAY - Three Man Show, Grunt Gallery, Vancouver BC

1988 EMERGING ARTISTS 88 - Group Show, White Rock BC

SCRATCH AND WIN - Three Man Show, Pitt Gallery, Vancouver BC

ARTISTS CHOICE - Group Show, Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby BC

CANNON, AN INSTALLATION - Two Man Show, MacEwen's Arts, Vancouver BC

RICH FOG



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