



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper*

Aleks Bartosik

Beauty & Obsession

September 7 - October 10, 2006



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Artist Catalog, 'Aleks Bartosik - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '  
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# Aleks Bartosik

## Beauty & Obsession

These are provoking drawings, rebellious stances that push unconventional beauty into our face. They are pugilistic with the boxing gloves loaded - clenched fists ready to punch. They're masochistic and appeal to the sadistic side of our psyche, that unacknowledged cry to be beaten and receive the full brunt of nastiness and humiliation. Aleks Bartosik reconciles the opposites of human grossness and glamour with the dramatic brashness of size and theatrical composition. Primarily focusing on fleshy female nudes with bland skin who are caught in awkward positions that suggest a tangential perversity, they, nonetheless, exude a sexy allure and it is in this respect that 'unconventional beauty' comes into play. They appeal to the fascination of a big naughtiness like a Roman overindulgence that is so over-the top that it is destined to implode but tastes delicious until that final cut is made.

Alice went down the rabbit hole and in Wonderland she met up with grotesques, exaggerations of the world as she had left it. There was always a resemblance to the 'real' world but the skewing raised questions, entrapments, predicaments and drugged perceptions that begged to be acknowledged. Alice, a pretty little blonde girl, confronted the unusual, fascinated with the revelations. Aleks Bartosik is taking a similar trip and allowing herself to be tempted to explore whenever "why not?" is asked, she indulges her curiosity and hence furthers the voyeuristic interests of the viewers. The presentation of her compromised females - fat and clumsy, pinioned and stuck, gloved for battle but hung, or small before a beastly headless adversary, allows the contemplation of gothic possibilities without a self righteous prod. There is no moral. There is no need to rescue. There is only the shock, the recoil, and then the step forward for a closer inspection.



Self Control  
charcoal, conte, pencil, acrylic, oilstick  
210 x 285 cm  
2003



Learning To Conform  
conte, pencil, oil stick on paper  
225 x 150 cm  
2003



Dirty Hands (Boxing Gloves)  
oilstick, pencil, acrylic & pencil on paper  
112 x 76 cm  
2003



Dirty Hands (Hanging)  
oilstick on paper  
112 x 76 cm  
2003





Faces No. 1  
charcoal, conte, acrylic & oil stick on paper  
75 x 40 cm  
2004-2005



Faces No. 6  
charcoal, conte, acrylic & oil stick on paper  
75 x 40 cm  
2004-2005



Faces No. 8  
charcoal, conte, acrylic & oil stick on paper  
75 x 40 cm  
2004-2005



Faces No. 2  
charcoal, conte, acrylic & oil stick on paper  
75 x 40 cm  
2004-2005



Faces No. 10  
charcoal, conte, acrylic & oil stick on paper  
75 x 40 cm  
2004-2005



Perturbed Is Heaving  
charcoal, oil stick & pencil on paper  
150 x 240 cm  
2004

# Aleks Bartosik

## academic history

2002-2005 concordia university: MFA: specializing in painting and drawing, Montréal, QC  
1997-2001 queen's university: BFA with honours (kingston, ontario)

## collections

the national museum der stadt nürnberg, germany  
schloss almshof, nürnberg, germany  
"jetz kunst" web-site: contemporary art collection affiliated with germany:  
no boundaries international art colony, north carolina, usa  
acme art studios residency program, north carolina, usa

## solo exhibitions (selected)

2007 upcoming: presently untitled, usine c. montréal, québec, canada  
2005 faces, galerie luz. montréal, québec, canada  
marsupial traces, galerie art mùr. montréal, québec, canada  
2004 latex flags, site-specific installation on bald head island. north carolina, usa  
animals and things, gallery weiß. nürnberg, germany  
2003 drawings, bourget gallery. montréal, québec, canada  
drawings, springbankarts centre. mississauga, ontario, canada  
sibyllae, gallery 401. toronto, ontario, canada

## group exhibitions (selected)

2006 beauty & obsession, headbones gallery, the drawers. toronto, ontario, canada  
dancing to the invisible piper: canadian contemporary figurative art, art gallery  
of mississauga. mississauga, ontario, canada  
square foot, a.w.o.l. gallery. toronto, ontario, canada  
in your face, art gallery of ontario. toronto, ontario, canada  
steamy, gallery 201 queen east. toronto, ontario, canada  
n.b.i. international, bottega art gallery. wilmington, north carolina, usa  
persephone's palace, hang man gallery. toronto, ontario, canada  
2005 the fifth international biennial of contemporary art, fortezza da basso.  
florence, italy  
square foot, project spaceman williamsburg. brooklyn, new york, usa  
abstraction (with dick roberts & leon schenker), acme art gallery. wilmington,  
north carolina, usa  
no boundaries, university of north carolina. wilmington, north carolina, usa  
no boundaries colony, fayetteville museum of art. fayetteville, north carolina  
ylwa's dream (with daphne gerou), gallery 401. toronto, ontario, canada  
naked, simmons wright gallery. wilmington, north carolina, usa

- 2004 no boundaries international art colony, acme art gallery. wilmington, north carolina, usa  
salon rouge, vav gallery. montréal, québec, canada  
look ma, no hands (a performance symposium), vav gallery. montréal, québec, canada
- 2003 eye and hand juried drawing exhibition, etobicoke civic centre art gallery. etobicoke, ontario, canada  
international künstlerkolonie, schloss almoshof. nürnberg, germany  
salon dollop, rad'a gallery. montréal, québec, canada
- 2002 form, circa gallery. toronto, ontario, canada  
body as (ready to be re-) made, propeller centre for the visual arts. toronto, ontario, canada  
29<sup>th</sup> annual juried show, art gallery of peel. brampton, ontario, canada  
rash, agnes etherington art centre. kingston, ontario, canada  
ambrosia (with v. hall-patch & e. munro), union gallery. kingston, ontario, canada  
shaken, not stirred, union gallery. kingston, ontario, canada  
40<sup>th</sup> annual toronto outdoor art exhibition, nathan phillips square. toronto, ontario, canada
- 1998 scumbling, union gallery. kingston, ontario, canada

#### residencies

- 2006 vermont studio center artists' residency. johnson, vermont, usa
- 2005 acme art studios: invited international artist in residence. wilmington, north carolina, usa
- 2004 no boundaries international art colony. bald head island, north carolina, usa (eight international artists)
- 2003 international künstlerkolonie in schloss almoshof. nürnberg, germany (fourteen international artists)

#### grants and awards

- 2006 full fellowship for vermont studio center artists' residency. johnson, vermont,
- 2004 the elizabeth greenshields foundation grant. montréal, québec, canada  
the imperial tobacco visual arts grant. montréal, québec, canada  
the william blair bruce european fine art travel scholarship. gotland, sweden & ontario, canada
- 2003 mississauga arts council grant: visual arts for emerging artist. mississauga, ontario, canada
- 2001 the andre bieler prize: queen's university. kingston, ontario, canada
- 2000 the margaret craig scholarship in fine art: queen's university. kingston, ON  
the best student in show award: 40<sup>th</sup> annual toronto outdoor art exhibition. toronto, ontario



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