



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Shelagh Keeley

Beauty & Obsession

September 7 - October 10, 2006



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Shelagh Keeley

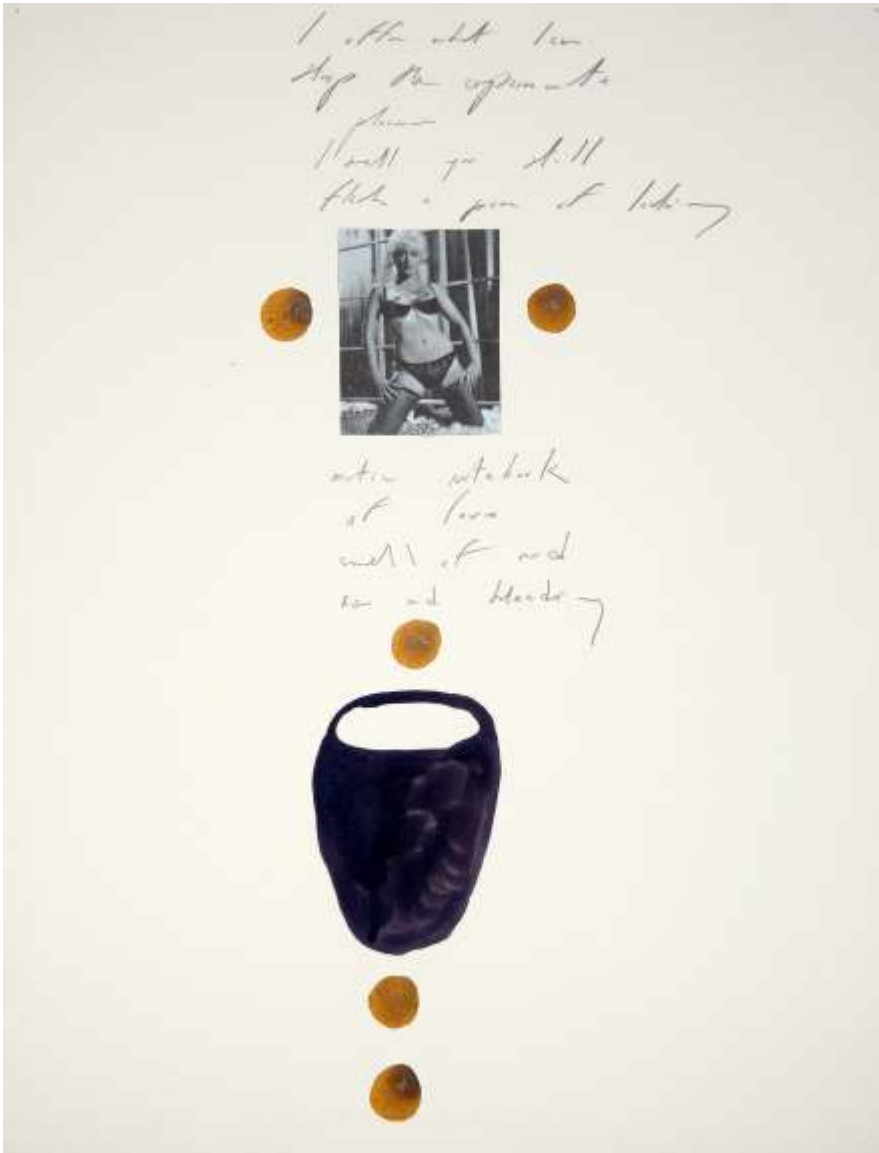
Beauty & Obsession

There is a confidence that comes with maturity, when identity is not a question and the personification of self is generous like a monarch bequeathing treasures. Shelagh Keeley extrapolates this generosity to include intimate disclosures and yet retains her regal posture with an elegant hand. She accomplishes all of this with a spare-ness that denies the temptation to display opulence. These drawings, made in Paris, bring a cosmopolitan sophistication from the boudoir to the cultured foreground of gallery spaces.

The collaged black and white photographs have seeped into the creamy matt texture of the paper and faded to a nostalgic tone in tune with their era. The vessels, so purple they're almost black, have a velvety, summer-night sheen. Each drawing is an invitation to enter and the empty vessels; both heart and womb floating on the bone surface have an ambient relationship to the plops of gold. The gold dots puddle in places so that the application of the paint appears to have been extravagant, a luxurious act with liquid gold to spare, dropped from on high; a veritable libation. The words, an energetic script in pencil, seem like a hasty note or a passionate missive where the important words leap out - "Sapho", "erotic", "flesh".

This is the work of a woman who is speaking of lovers in the plural like a connoisseur, a woman who is very feminine and who has *lived* in France. This is the world of Colette and Anais Nin, the realm of libertines - Paris! - where corsets, garters and their neighborly association to white naked skin is held in rightful esteem. The very word "lingerie" is said the French way, in the language of love and seduction, showing just enough to titillate and still being sufficiently in control, almost aloof, able to proceed with an objectivity that lends art to the act.

Keeley's visual metaphors are rich and yet subtle, deft yet emotive, in extremely good taste and absolutely discrete. Like the show of a slim ankle by a lady.



From The Erotic Notebook - Paris
collage, gouache, pencil
25.5 x 20 in
1995

substance name
line with
to gay straight with
of quite vulnerability
the use of pleasure
into a young
stresses
with in of many
best in of many
even the vulnerability
like just
and best
day with best baby.



From The Erotic Notebook - Paris
collage, gouache, pencil
25.5 x 20 in
1995



From The Erotic Notebook - Paris
collage, gouache, pencil
25.5 x 20 in
1995



From The Erotic Notebook - Paris
collage, gouache, pencil
25.5 x 20 in
1995



From The Erotic Notebook - Paris
collage, gouache, pencil
25.5 x 20 in
1995



From The Erotic Notebook - Paris
collage, gouache, pencil
25.5 x 20 in
1995



From The Erotic Notebook - Paris
collage, gouache, pencil
25.5 x 20 in
1995



From The Erotic Notebook - Paris
collage, gouache, pencil
25.5 x 20 in
1995



From The Erotic Notebook - New York
collage, crayon, oilstick
30 x 22 in
2004

Shelagh Keeley

Born

Oakville, Ontario

Education

1977 BFA York University, Toronto, Ontario

Solo Exhibitions

2005 *from the erotic notebook*, Drabinsky Gallery, Toronto

2005 Galerie Annette de Keyser, Antwerp, Belgium

2004 *Nature Morte*, Bose Pacia Gallery, New Delhi, India

2003 *objecto fo daily use*, Drabinsky Gallery, Toronto

2002 *materia medica*, Drabinsky Gallery, Toronto

2001 Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, NB

2001 Book Launch, Museum Library, Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY

2000 *Fragrance de Tendresse*, The Drabinsky Gallery, Toronto

1999 Cencebaugh Contemporary, N.Y.C.

1999 Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta

1998 Crestet Centre d'Art, Vaison La Romaine

1998 Art Book, Amsterdam

1998 Collaboration with fashion designer Collette Dinnigan, David Jones Gallery,
Sydney & Adelaide, Australia

1998 Printed Matter, New York

1997 Galerie Annette de Keyser, Antwerp

1996 Centre d'Arts Plastique de Saint-Fons

1995 Indianapolis Museum of Art, Drawing Installation

1995 RAM Galerie, Rotterdam

1995, 1997 Galerie Aline Vidal, Paris

1994 Galerie Sous-Sol, Paris

1994 Centre d'Art Herblay, France

1994 John Gibson Gallery, New York

1993 James Corcoran Gallery, Los Angeles

1993 Galerie Lallouz-Watterson, Montreal

1993 Exit Art, New York

1992 The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu

1992, 1999 Axe Néo-7, Hull, Quebec

1991 Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta

1991 Granary Books, New York

1991 De Fabriek, Eindhoven

1990 Art Metropole, Toronto

1990/92/94 Costin and Klintworth Gallery, Toronto

1990 Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh (installation)

1989 49th Parallel, New York (installation)

1989 SF Camerawork, San Francisco
1989/88 Sagacho Exhibit Space, Tokyo
1989/101 Studio d'Arte Contemporanea, Florence
1989 Centro Cultural Canadese, Rome
1989 Franklin Furnace, New York
1989/87 Tomoko Ligouri Gallery, New York
1988/86/84/82 Grünwald Gallery, Toronto
1986 Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver
1986 Gallery White Art, Tokyo
1984 Embassy Cultural House, London, Canada (permanent installation)
1981/ 80 Washington Square East Galleries, New York University, NYC

Group Exhibitions (selected)

2005 Jaipur Cultural Festival, Jaipur, India
2003 *Drawing the World: Masters to Hipsters*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
2003 *Publishing Granary's Books: A Conversation in the Margins*, Department of Special Collections, UCLA, San Diego, La Jolla, California
2002 *The 25th Anniversary Selections Exhibition*, The Drawing Centre, NYC
2002 *Artist Books*, Kohler Art Library, Special Collections, University of Wisconsin, Madison
2001 Kohler Arts Center, Blurry Lines, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
2000 *Odd Bodies*, National Gallery of Canada Touring Show, Oakville Galleries, Oakville, ON
2000 *Face à L'autre*, FRAC Haute-Normandie, Rouen France
2000 *The End: Exit Art, N.Y.C., 2000. An Independent Vision of Contemporary Culture*
1982-2000 *Sight / Insight: 2000 Visual Commentaries on the Physical World. The New York Public Library, NYC*
2000 *End Papers 1890 - 1900 and 1990-2000*, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, NY
1999 *Drawings*, Annette de Keyser Gallery Antwerp
1998 *Raw Ideas, Large Scale Drawings*, John Gibson Gallery, New York
1998 *Jeux de Genres*, Les Musees de la Ville de Paris, L'Espace Electra, Paris
1998 *Interiors*, Galerie Aline Vidal, Paris
1998 *Pour un Object - d'Art*, 12 rue de Volga, Paris
1998 *Five Years Together*, Galerie Annette de Keyser, Antwerp
1998 *Connections/Contradictions*, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta
1998 *Books by Artists*, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
1998 *Process, Documentation and Fragments from the Mattress Factory's Archives*, Pittsburgh
1997 *The Pleasure of Reading*, John Gibson Gallery, New York
1997 *Mother Nature*, John Gibson Gallery, New York
1996 *Vital Signs, Part III*, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
1996 *Voyeurs Delight*, Franklin Furnace, New York
1996 *Odd Bodies*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
1995 RAM Galerie, Het VAAS, Rotterdam
1995 *Chroniques New Yorkaises*, Agnès B, New York
1993 *Return of the Cadavre Exquis*, The Drawing Center, New York
1993 *Nineties*, John Gibson Gallery, New York

1993 Chambres d'Hotel, Quebec City
1993 RAM Gallery, Rotterdam
1992 - 1994 *Drawn in the nineties*. Independent Curators, Inc., New York, travelling exhibition
1992 *X Mostra da Gravura*, Museu da Gravura Ciudad de Curitiba, Curitiba, Brazil
1992 *Natural Science*, John Gibson Gallery, New York
1992 La Fabbrica di Seta Arezzo, Italy
1992 *From the Intimacy of the Page*, the Power Plant, Toronto
1991 *Encounters with Diversity*, P.S. 1 Museum, New York
1991 Milanopoesia, Spazio Ansaldo, Milan
1991 *Physical Relief*, Hunter College Art Gallery, New York
1991 *Contemporary Works from the Permanent Collection*, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
1991 *Helen Chadwick and Shelagh Keeley*, Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff
1989 *If You Lived Here. The City in Art, Theory and Social Activism*, a project by Martha Rosler, DIA Art Foundation, New York
1989 *Perugia Video and Film Festival*, Italy
1989 *Lines of Vision*, Blum Helman Warehouse, New York
1988 *Flaneur*, collaboration with Goro Namerikawa (Sankai Juku), Sagacho Exhibition Space, Tokyo
1987 *Infermental 6*, Berlin Film Festival
1987 *Immigrants and Refugees/Heroes or Villains*, Exit Art, New York
1987 *Selections 36*, The Drawing Center, New York
1986 *Dream Island/Nature Morta*, Miyagi Museum, Sendai, Japan
1986 *Selections*, curated by Valerie Smith, Artist's Space, New York
1984-87 *Recent Concerns in Canadian Drawings*, international travelling exhibition organized by the Department of External Affairs of the Government of Canada, Ottawa

Awards

2002 Triangle Artists Workshop, NYC
2002 Artist in Residence, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS
1995 Nexus Press Olympic Book Residency, Atlanta (representing North America)
1991 Pyramid Atlanta (mid-Atlantic grant), Washington, DC
1990 Lower East Side Printshop (special editions program), New York
1989 Edward Albee Fellowship
1989 Japan/Canada Award
Ontario Arts Council
Canada Council
Pollock Krasner Foundation

Collections

Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
Artotheque, Centre d'Arts Plastiques, Lyons
Bibliothèques Nationale de France, Paris
The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn
Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa
The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii,
Department de Seine Saint-Denis, France
Department of External Affairs, Ottawa
Edward Albee Foundation
The Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, Santa Monica
Hart House, University of Toronto, Toronto
The Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge
Les Musées de la Ville de Paris
The Library of Congress, Washington DC
Museum of Modern Art, New York
Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
New York Public Library, Spencer Collection
The Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto
The Progressive Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio
Refco Corporation, Chicago
San Francisco Art Institute
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
Stanford University, The Green Library, Department of Special Collections
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
Sydney Lewis Collection, Virginia
University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara
University Art Museum, University of Iowa, Iowa
University of New Mexico
Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven
Vancouver Art Gallery
Victoria and Albert Museum
Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis
Yale University Art Gallery
Yale University, Beinecke Rare Books & Manuscript Library

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