



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper*

**Ruth Waldman**

Bona fide

May 17 - June 28, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, 'Ruth Waldman - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '  
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Director: Richard Fogarty  
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## Ruth Waldman

*Julie Oakes*

Ruth Waldman's work deserves a second look and this leads to a third and then a fourth and an eventual examination of what at first glance might have appeared to be an overall delicate yet undemonstrative design. It is like the role of 'the new woman' - sexy, competent, knowledgeable, secure, multidimensional and far deeper than the saccharine colors the feminine aspect presents as a first impression. These are pieces that could hold their own in respectable circles for they are clothed with decorum and yet appeal to an aristocratic kinkiness, cultivated in the secret assignations where bondage, trusses and slings enhance pleasure and bring it into refinement. It is the realm of the Victorian lady, looking prim and pretty until the petticoats rise and all hell can break loose with a lascivious spill of imaginative cavorts.

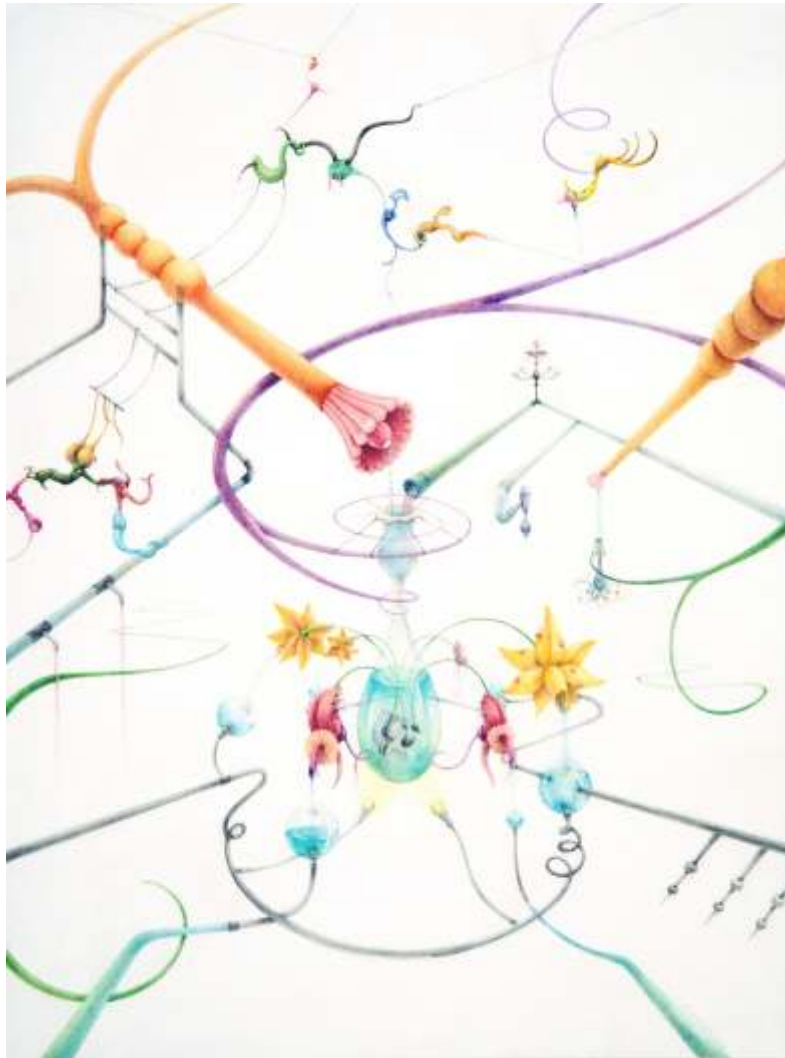
Embroidery, needlework, and water coloring were once used to keep nervous female imaginations within a lady-like fold. Waldman's work is clear evidence of hours of patient execution in order to build her intricate coloured drawings but the powdery atmosphere defuses upon closer examination of her handicraft. The organic characters, feathery and pretty from a distance are involved in a series of complex relationships that have an unmistakable resemblance to sadomasochistic sexual practices. Like a visual kama sutra, the drawings depict the inventive multiple permutations and twisted interdependencies of a promiscuous bunch of freaky creatures.

The source and mastermind of the dynamics exercised upon the freaky fragile characters is revealed. They are manipulating each other. Waldman's disciplined, detailed and delicate touch is evidence enough of their origins, while their symbiosis is generated within their own company.

The wonder lies in the duality of both purpose and effect. As the discipline and talent of the finely crafted piece recedes into the awareness of close inspection, the strange fecund imagination of one of the 'gentler sex' leaves a fascinating possibility in its wake. Waldman's seemingly feminine perspicacious leanings are even more enticing when we examine her naughtiness.



Untitled 041 - 16 x 12 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2006



Untitled 042 - 16 x 12 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2006

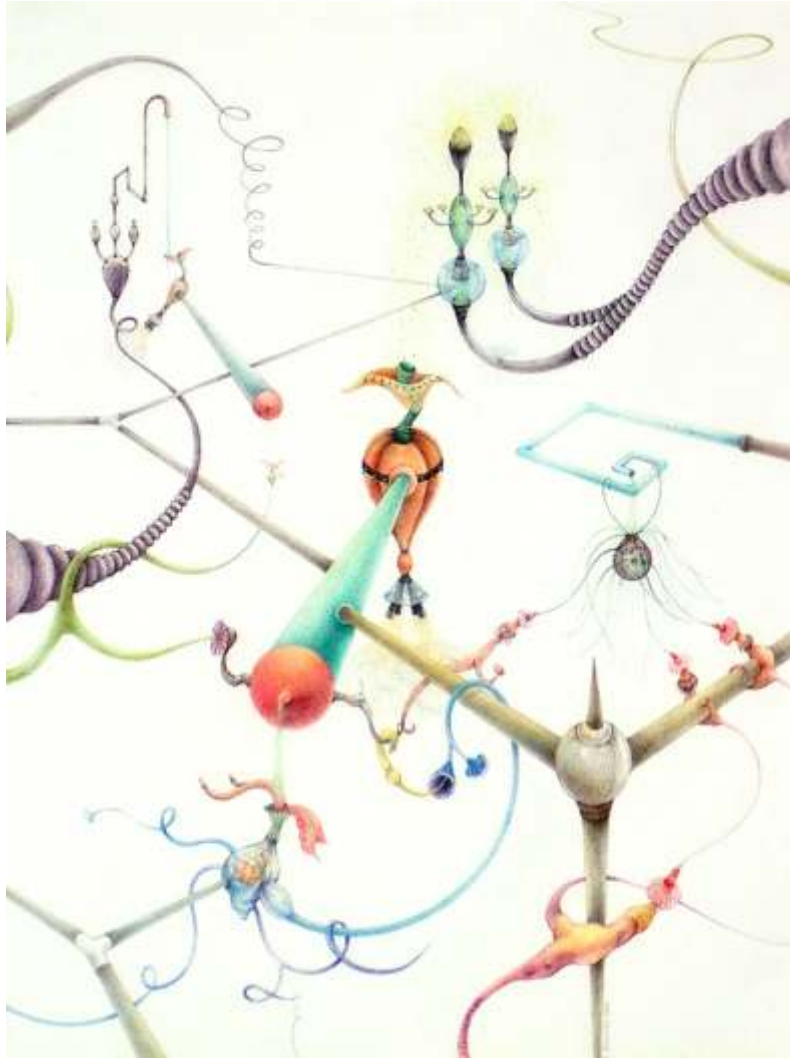


Untitled 036 - 16 x 12 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2006



Untitled 040 - 16 x 12 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2006

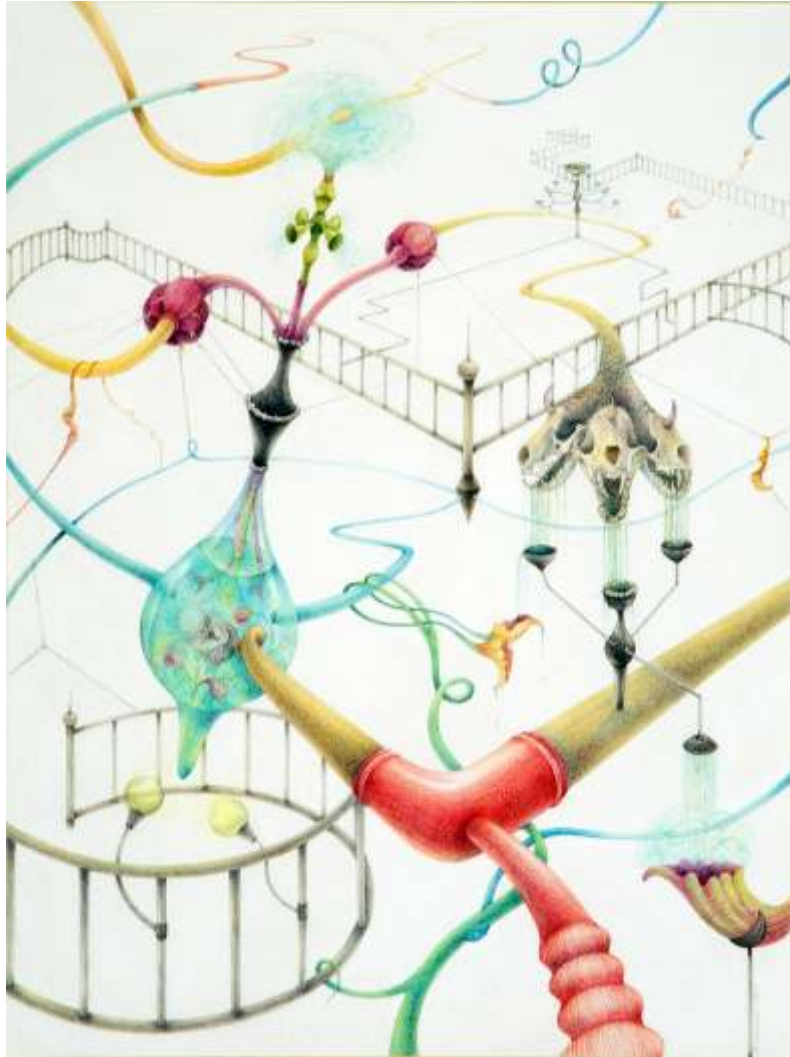




Untitled 044 - 16 x 12 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2006



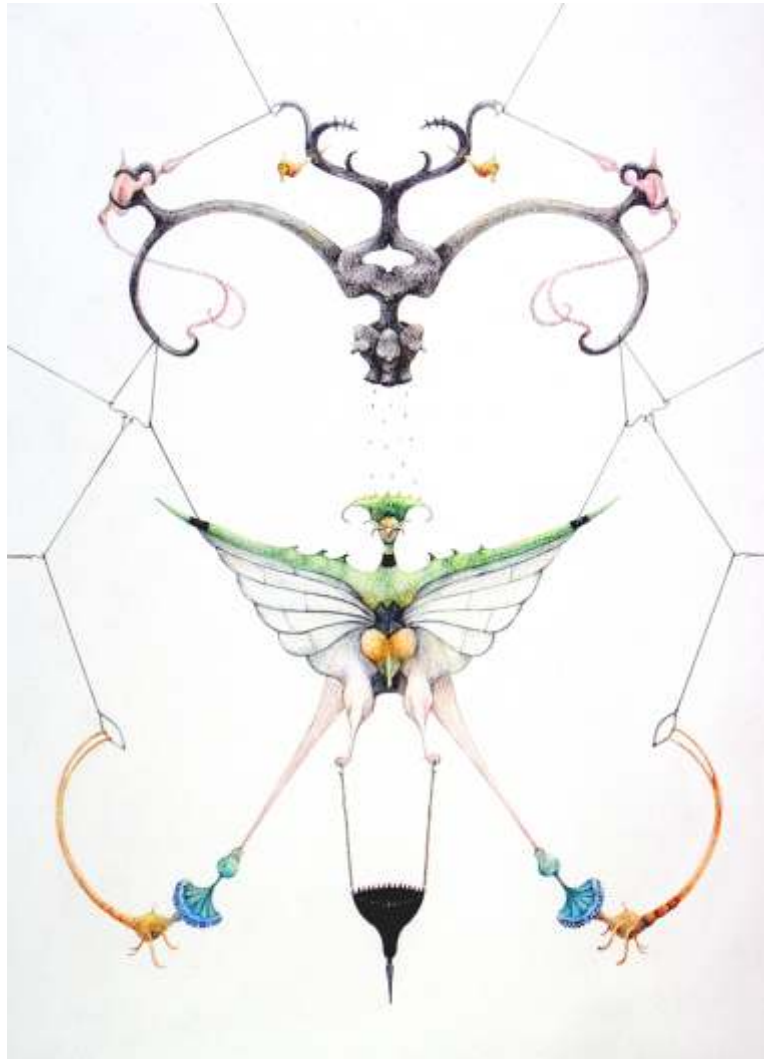
Cycle - 10 x 8 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2006



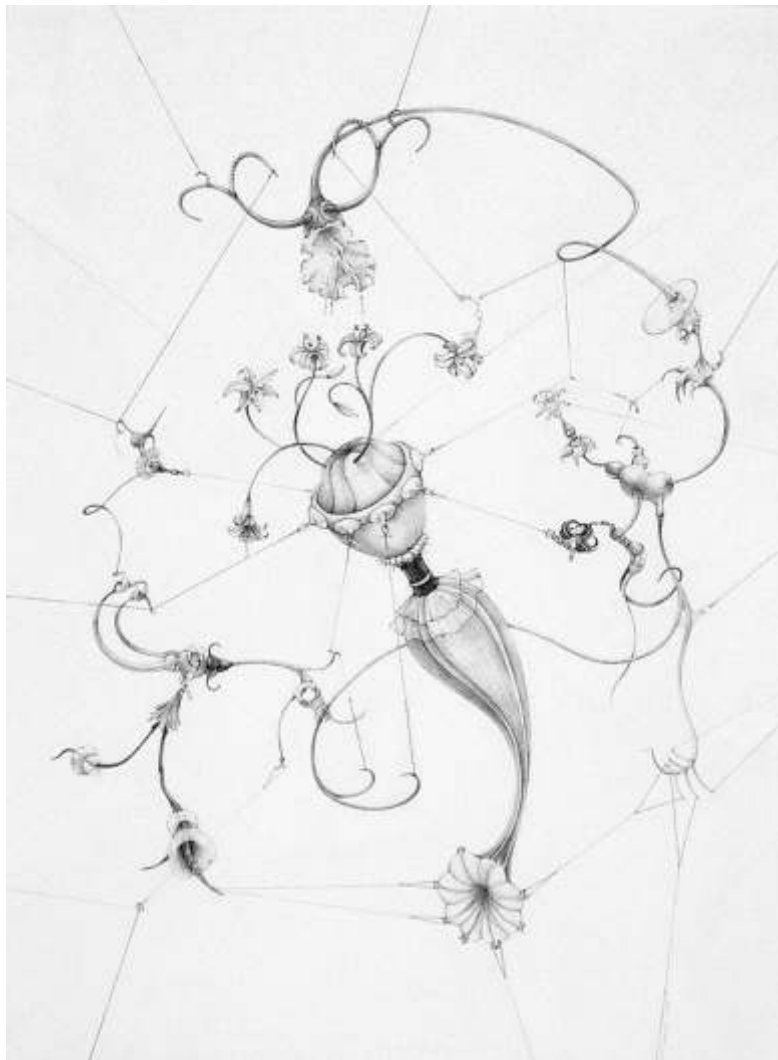
Cycle 2 - 16 x 12 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2007



Untitled 046 - 16 x 12 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2006



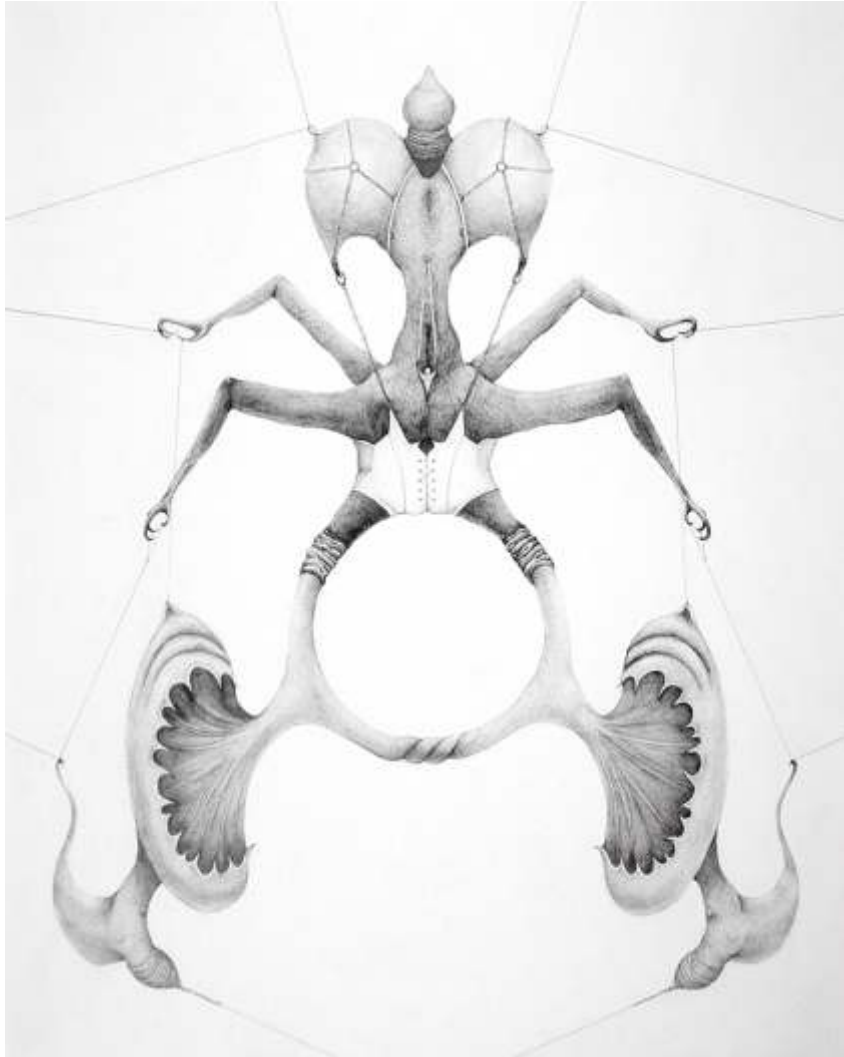
Flight - 16 x 12 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2004



Untitled 039 - 16 x 12 inches - pencil on paper - 2006

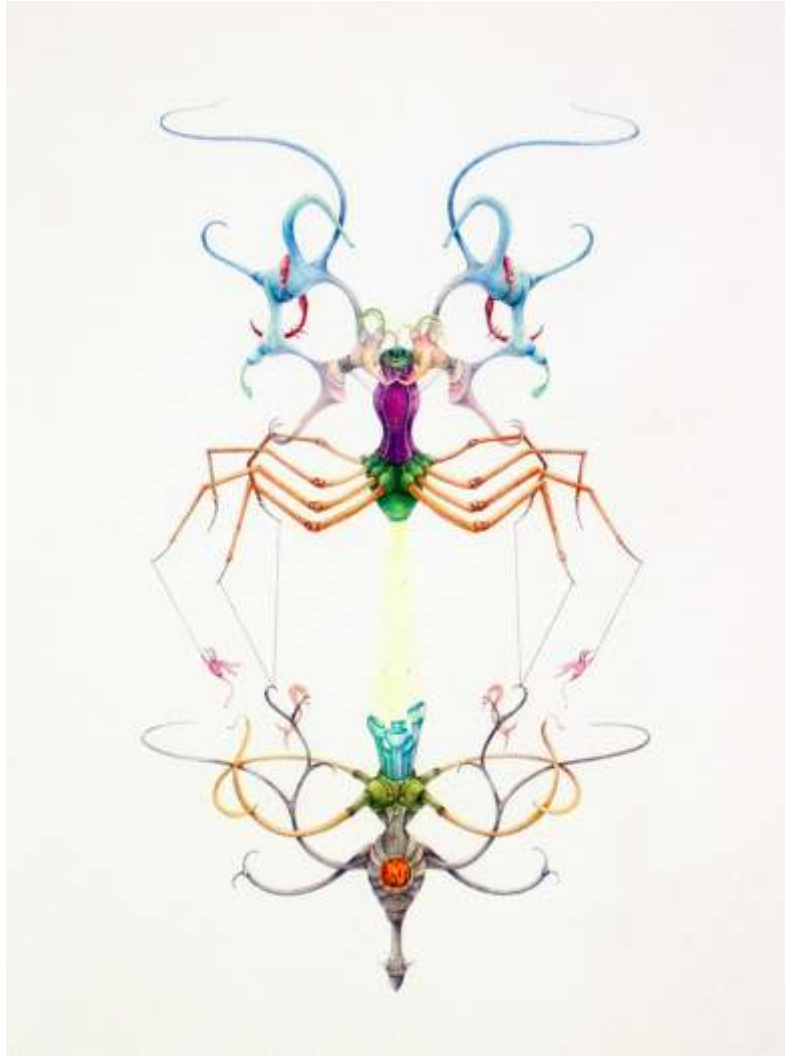


Untitled 043 - 16 x 12 inches - pencil on paper - 2006



Untitled 009 - 24 x 19 inches - pencil on paper - 2003





The Alchemists - 16 x 12 inches - colored pencil and ink on paper - 2005

## Ruth Waldman

### EDUCATION

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, MFA 1998  
Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH BA Art History 1989

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Angie Drakopoulos, Ruth Waldman, Laura Sharp Wilson, McKenzie Fine Art, NY, NY 2006  
Native Spirit, Supreme Trading, Brooklyn, NY  
Narrative?, Headbones Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
The Diligent Hand, Gallery 64, Brooklyn, NY  
Transcending Everyday Reality, Hewitt Gallery, Marymount Manhattan College, NY, NY  
Caspar David Séance, Jack the Pelican, Brooklyn, NY 2005  
Scope Art Fair, Miami, FL (Jack the Pelican, Brooklyn, NY)  
Beautiful Dreamers, Spaces, Cleveland, Ohio - curated by David Gibson (catalogue)  
Group Exhibition, The Parrish Museum of Art, Southampton, NY  
Radical Vaudeville, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA  
Neo-Erotix juried, Art at Large, New York, NY (Grand Prize winner)  
Everland, Annina Nosei Gallery, New York, NY - curated by David Gibson  
Contemporary Erotic Drawing, The Aldrich Contemporary Museum of Art, Ridgefield, CT  
Contemporary Erotic Drawing, Diverseworks, Houston, TX (traveling exhibition with catalogue)  
curated by Harry Philbrick, Sara Kellner and Stuart Horodner  
Art Chicago in the Park, (Jack the Pelican, Bklyn, NY)  
Pick Up Lines, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA 2004  
Colored Pencil, KS Art, New York, NY - curated by Geoffrey Young and Kerry Schuss  
World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition, LMDC Online exhibition, [www.wtcsitememorial.org](http://www.wtcsitememorial.org)  
Faculty Exhibition, Suffolk County Community College, Brentwood, NY  
Merry Peace, Sideshow, Williamsburg, Brooklyn 2003  
Learning, A benefit for artists, Morgan-Lehman Gallery, Lakeville, CT  
Neo-Erotic, Art@Large, New York, NY curated by Grady T. Turner, Honorable Mention in Drawing  
Invitational Exhibition, Norwich Art Council, Norwich, CT 2002  
4 Chicks, Access Theater gallery, New York, NY  
Residency exhibition, The Cooper Union, New York, NY 2000  
Sculpture installation, The Lure Club, New York, NY  
Public Art proposals, The Daley Center, Chicago, IL 1999  
New Talent, Contemporary Art Workshop, Chicago, IL

MFA Exhibition, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL	1998
Group show, Red Trike Gallery, Chicago, IL	
Cast Metal, Base Space, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL	1997
Group Exhibition, Gallery 2, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL	

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

Drawings, Realform project space, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY	2006
New Work, Suffolk Community College Gallery, Selden, NY	2004
	2002

**AWARDS & RESIDENCIES**

The Viewing Program, The Drawing Center, New York, NY (juried slide file)	2002-present
Artist-in-Residence, The Cooper Union, New York, NY	2000 summer
Chicago Arts Assistance Program Grant, Chicago, IL	1999

**LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS**

"Real Art Today," Artist's presentation, Makor Steinhart Center, NY, NY	2005
Artist's talk, "Contemporary Erotic Drawing," The Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT	2005
Artist's talk, Solo show, Suffolk Community College, Selden, NY	2002

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Harris, Larissa, "Contemporary Erotic Drawing," Artforum Magazine , September 2005  
 Lewis, Zachary, "Beautiful Dreamer," On View, Cleveland Scene, Sept., 14, 2005  
 Gibson, David, "Beautiful Dreamers," catalogue essay, September 2005  
 Johnson, Ken, "Everland," NY Times review, Weekend Arts, July 8, 2005  
 Genocchio, Benjamin, "Erotic Goes Mainstream," Connecticut Art Review, NY Times, May 8, 2005  
 Horodner, Stuart, Contemporary Erotic Drawing, Exhibition catalogue, DAP, Inc., May 2005  
 Drury, Eric, "Pick Up Lines, Geoffrey Young Gallery," The Artful Mind, September 2004  
 Karlins, N.F, "Drawing Notebooks," Artnet.com, Magazine Reviews, April 20, 2004  
 Misner, Kirsten, "Local Artist Brings Erotic Circus to Suffolk," Compass Newspaper, October 23, 2002  
 "Controversial Art," Compass Newspaper, Selden, NY, May 2003  
 Photo credits in the Chicago Sun Times and The Reader, December 12, 1997

## **Artist Statement**

My work explores the tension that occurs in the meeting of opposing energies and forces -- such as male and female, angelic and diabolic, tragic and comic -- and proposes that different sides of our nature co-exist in a tenuous symbiosis. I represent this with fantastic, biomorphic creatures whose interactions are simultaneously symbiotic and antagonistic. Similar to Renaissance grotesques and mythological hybrids such as the Minotaur, these creatures represent both the fusion of, and the incongruity between, the conflicting sides within the individual. It is my experience that the most compelling situations find their power in just this intractable dualism, which finds its resolution neither in affirmation nor in denial, but in a delicate balance that contains both.

RICH FOG



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