



Ethnic Convergence  
February 22 - April 3, 2007

Gykan Project Room  
presents

**Srdjan Segan**

February 22, 2007

Commentary by Julie Oakes



**The Drawers** - Headbones Gallery  
*Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper*

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Headbones Gallery & Gykan Enterprizes Inc.

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Artist Catalog, 'Srdjan Segan - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '  
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# Srdjan Segan

*Julie Oakes*

Size brings monumental themes into play and yet is rarely executed in paper, a fragile medium. That the subject is a human image, stretched, hanging from the hands and visiting animist sites as it makes the long transition of space, both attests to the grand notion of humanity and also to the brief trajectory of each life through time.

All that the drawings embody is related to the artist's history through a traceable path. Srdjan Segan is a Serbian from Croatia, a minority ethnicity who had made up a lesser percentage of the population for centuries. He grew up in a country where the citizens were often pitted against each other. At nineteen he was able to receive a refugee status but it was not until he was twenty-four that he began the process that would allow him to immigrate to Canada; he was twenty-six when he finally arrived. He had changed, while in Serbia, from his studies in medicine to an interest in Fine Arts. The innards exposed in the drawings, twisted and mixed-up bring up the medical orientation of the body as corpus, as the physical structure and animal substance. The drawing as a whole, magnified as it is, they becomes "the main or central mass of a thing". Then, there is the third connotation of a corpse or a carcass, splayed and hanging to cure. Srdjan uses charcoal and coffee to stain and draw on the paper - simple substances on a humble ground. In doing so he grants the body a more 'full bodied' rendition of the matter making the concept of monumentality a virtual object in the art piece.

A room filled with these draping hanging presences, punctuated by his equally immutable bronzes, brings to mind ancient temples. These are icons that can refer to religious imagery as awesome as the Eastern Island sculptures and the massive Buddhas of the Orient. They are warriors - guardians of sacred spaces, warning against marauders. They speak of man's dignity. They are a testament to his status, standing upright above all of the other species. They are not singularly consumed though and while incorporate images of the lesser realms and hence show the relationship and interdependency of the creatures of the earth. There is also an alien intonation as if the long paper men/women are from another galaxy, a silent witnessing being from outer-space.

We walk down the length of the bodies or squint to peer up at the faces from our picayune vantage point. We are connected to the giants through the large drawings and the human potential is made greater.



Headbones Gallery  
2007



Headbones Gallery and Gykan Project Room  
2007



Headbones Gallery and Gykan Project Room  
2007



Headbones Gallery and Gykan Project Room  
2007



Headbones Gallery and Gykan Project Room  
2007



Installation Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto ON  
2004





Installation Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto ON  
2005



detail  
charcoal, coffee and dye on paper





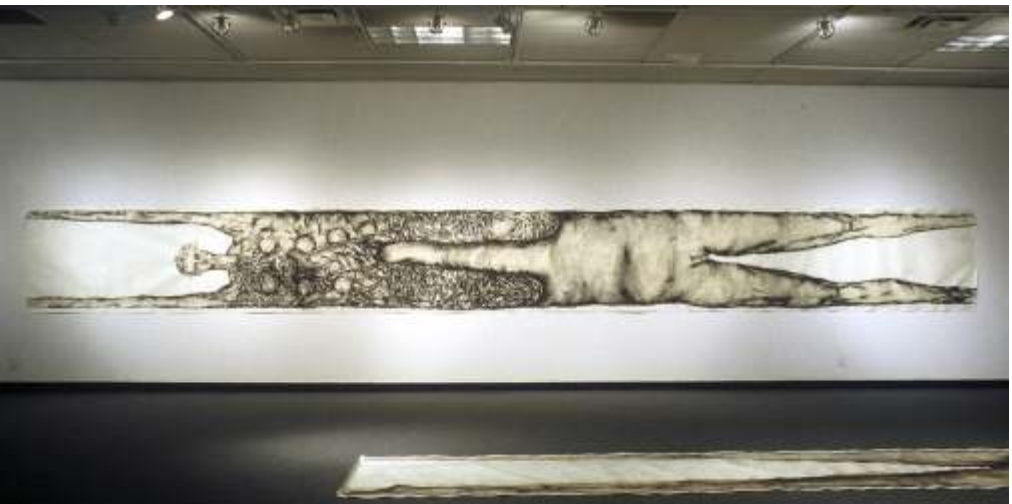
Headbones Gallery and Gykan Project Room  
2006



detail  
charcoal, coffee on paper



Solo Exhibition, *John B. Aird Gallery*  
2005



Solo Exhibition, *John B. Aird Gallery*  
2005



First Prize, Drawing: 8th Annual Juried Exhibition, *John B. Aird Gallery*  
2007



detail  
charcoal, coffee and dye on paper



detail  
charcoal, coffee and dye on paper



Installation Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto ON  
2006



detail  
charcoal, coffee and dye on paper



detail  
charcoal, coffee and dye on paper





Outdoor drawing installation at Diego Salazar Studios ,Queens ,NY  
2006



Outdoor drawing installation at Diego Salazar Studios ,Queens ,NY  
2006

## Srdjan Segan

### Education

- 2004 Sculpture/Installation and Drawing/Painting at *Ontario College of Art and Design*
- 2002 Florence Off-Campus Studies at *Ontario College of Art and Design*
- 1999 Drawing / Painting at *Student Town Culture Centre, Belgrade*
- 1999 Sculpture at *Unistitucional Sumatovacka, Belgrade*

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2006 Outdoor drawing installation at *Diego Salazar Studios, Queens, NY*
- 2005 "Architecture of Entropy" at *John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, sponsored by OSA*
- 2005 Outdoor drawing installation at *Diego Salazar Studios, part of "Open Studio Long Island", Queens, New York*
- 2005 "Drawings and Sculptures: Srdjan Segan" at *Raccoon Space, Long Island City, NY*
- 2005 "Drawings and Sculptures" at *Kabat Wrobel Gallery, Toronto*
- 1998 Solo exhibition at *Gallery Dom Kulture Studentski Grad, Belgrade,*

### Juried Exhibitions

- 2007 Drawing 2007: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition at *John B. Aird Gallery*
- 2007 "Canadian Artist Without Border" *Varley Art Gallery Markham*
- 2006 *Las Peripicias de la Linea* at *Escuela Nacional de Danza Folklorica Mexico City*
- 2006 *Alternative Fashion Week Toronto*
- 2006 *Zemunski Salon Lucka Kapetanija Zemun Serbia*
- 2006 *Work on Paper Neutral Ground Regina*
- 2006 *Dezorg Galerija Zvono Belgrade Serbia*
- 2006 *Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition*
- 2006 Drawing 2006: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition at *John B. Aird Gallery*
- 2006 *Triple X: Visual Arts Ontario 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition Series, exhibition to travel to 5 venues in Ontario, 2005-06*
- 2005 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Emerging Sculptors Exhibition at *Sculptors Society of Canada, TOR*
- 2005 "Through the Eyes of the Artist" at *The Assembly Hall, Etobicoke*
- 2005 "Metamorphosis: 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition" at *John B. Aird Gallery, TOR*
- 2004 "Home and Style Studio Tour" at *Designers Walk, Toronto*
- 2004 *Sculptors Society of Canada: 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduating Student Exhibition at John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto*
- 2004 89<sup>th</sup> *OCAD Annual Student Exhibition at Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto*
- 2004 Drawing 2004: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition at *John B. Aird Gallery*
- 2004 "Bronze Now: A Voyage in Self Expression" at *OCAD Gallery, Toronto*

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2007 "Ethnic Convergence" at *Hedbones Gallery, Toronto*
- 2006 "Mistletoe Magic" at *John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto*
- 2006 Cycles Perfecta Katharin Mulherin Contemporary Art Project Toronto
- 2006 "Results of the Head Hunt" at *Headbones Gallery, Toronto*
- 2006 "Narrative ?" at *Headbones Gallery, Toronto*
- 2005 "5 Artists Choice" at *Praxis Gallery, Toronto*
- 2004 "Mistletoe Magic" at *John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto*
- 2003 "Summer Heat" at *Praxis Gallery, Toronto*
- 2003 "Sweet and Sour" at *Gallery 1313, Toronto*
- 2002 "Vignettes" at *Gypsy X, Toronto*
- 2002 "Miniaturas" at *Acadia Gallery, Toronto*
- 2002 "Unrelated Exposures" at *XO, Florence, Italy*
- 1999 Annual Exhibition at *Student Town Gallery, Belgrade, 1998, 97, 96*

### Grants and Awards

- 2007 First Prize, Drawing 2007: 8th Annual Juried Exhibition, *John B. Aird Gallery*
- 2006 LudwigVogelstein Foundation Grant
- 2006 Production Grant, emerging level *Ontario Arts Council*
- 2005 Production Grant, emerging level *Toronto Arts Council*
- 2005 Artcast Inc. Award, 7 Annual Emerging Sculptors Exhibition, The Sculpture Society of Canada
- 2005 Honorable Mention, Wyndham Award, Ontario Society of Artist
- 2005 Exhibition Grant, *Ontario Arts Council*
- 2005 Exhibition Grant, *Ontario Society of Artists*
- 2004 Art Cast Award, *Sculptors Society of Canada*
- 2004 Anne Adler Kagan Award, *Ontario College of Art and Design*
- 2004 Louis Odette Sculpture Scholarship, *Ontario College of Art and Design*
- 2004 First Prize, Drawing 2004: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition, *John B. Aird Gallery*

### Professional Experience

- 2007 Guest Lecturer at Centennial College, Toronto
- 2006 Guest Lecturer at Centennial College, Toronto
- 2005 "TRSIC '05" International Multimedia Summer Residency, Trsic, Serbia
- 2005 Juror for Drawing 2005: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibition, *John B. Aird Gallery*
- 2004 Guest Lecturer, *Belgrade University School of Fine Arts*
- 1997 Teaching Assistant at *Student Town Culture Centre, Belgrade, 1997-99*

RICH FOG



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