



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

E.J. Wickes

An Exotic Erotic Christmas

December 9 - January 11, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, 'E.J. Wickes - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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E.J. Wickes

Julie Oakes

Eric's drawings of sexy women in provocative poses bring to mind a tradition of illustrations associated with 'slick'. There was an adept, talented hand drawing, a playboy's touch that brought an insinuation of class, taste, and even elegance to the acts depicted. From a decidedly male gaze, an appraisal is taken from a connoisseurs vantage point with the cliché accoutrements of glossy pin-up girls - little white socks, high platform heels, bondage ties, blindfolds, a man's shirt and tie on a nearly naked woman. This is the sex trade at its best, a land that has assumed an almost mythological proportion in the annals of sex history, the time honored rumor that there are high-class whores. The women, created by Eric (do such women exist?) coax us into the fantasy of sex for sale, the sex that costs yet has no attachments and is free in other respects; free of strictures, commitment and certainly not tainted by either the harsh realities of disease or the sour aftertaste of moral judgment. Eric Wickes is giving us the all American man's interpretation of the all American dream girl, the same 'girl next door' that first inspired Hugh Hefner to launch *Playboy Magazine*.

In a world where the articulation of sexuality has become politicized, policed and rebellious, it is an act of courage to present such a testament to the enjoyment of a man's taking a woman. Without the worry that he might be branded a misogynist, harbor an unrealistic vision with AIDS raising a grim specter over the sex trade or that the full blooded male stance is not quite 'hip' in our bisexually oriented liberation; Wickes delivers a handsome product. The babes are hot and if the orientation is 'het', the desire rises to 'do' them. Has Eric managed to win over the critical perception, titillate the prudish and entice the eyes of the modest? These elegant drawings, "Ex-girlfriends," bring exotic up to the dignity of Gypsy Rose Lee when she first peeled off her glove as a 'strip tease artist.'



Amy
charcoal on paper, 41 x 30 inches
2006



Amy
detail



Megan
charcoal on paper, 41 x 30 inches
2006



Megan
detail



Debra
charcoal on paper, 41 x 30 inches
2006



Debra
detail



Untitled Sketch
charcoal on paper, 35 x 24 inches
2006



Untitled Sketch
detail



Untitled Sketch
charcoal on paper, 35 x 24 inches
2006



Untitled Sketch
detail

E.J. Wickes

Education:

- 1979-81 Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 1978 University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- 1976 College of the Desert, Copper Mountain Campus, Joshua Tree, CA
- 1975 Select Studio with Boris Bly, Tyler School of Art, Elkins Park, PA
- 1974 Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia, PA

Professional Experience:

- 2005 Sol LeWitt Installation, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA
- 2005-06 Installation Technician, Preparator's Dept., Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA
- 2004 Executive Director, Co-founder, East Village Art Coalition
- 1989-90 Studio Instructor, The Learning Tree University, Chatsworth, CA

Exhibition Record:

- 2006- "Exotic Erotic Christmas," Headbones Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
- 2006 "Adrift", The Fitch Gallery, Des Moines, IA
- 2005 "I Love It But It Doesn't Match My Sofa", EVACCITYWIDE, Des Moines, IA
- 2005 "Da Vinci Dress Code", Two Man Installation, The Lift, Des Moines, IA
- 2005 "Camouflage", Absolute Art Gallery, Des Moines, IA
- 2004 "Big and Small Show", EVACCITYWIDE, Des Moines, IA
- 1996 Solo Exhibition, Art Forms Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 1994 Two man show, Medici Center for the Visual Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 1993 Solo Exhibition, Gene Sinsler Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1991 "Black and White" Show, Installations One Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Commissions and Collections:

- 2005 Hy-Vee Corporation, Des Moines, IA
- 2005 Des Moines University of Osteopathic Medicine, Des Moines, IA
- 1996 Facade Mural, Orbit Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 1989 Interior Mural, The Hathaway Building, Los Angeles, CA

Gallery Representation:

- 2006- Rembrandt Yard, Boulder, Colorado
- 2005- Donna Ambrette Fine Art; Gold Leaf Studios, Philadelphia, PA

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