



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Jesse McCloskey

Highly Recommended

January 11 - February 20, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, 'Jesse McCloskey - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Jesse McCloskey

Julie Oakes

There are stories that are common to cultures and ages that serve as templates for the common narrative of the time: the creation myths, the passion plays, the Greek tragedies, Theatre Del Arte, classical allegories and biblical morality tales. The action within them serves to illustrate the temper of the time. Jesse McCloskey appears to have developed a current common narrative within the consistent imagery of the dog and the girl that he has used in paintings and drawings over a number of years. Are the dog and the girl with their hedonistic foreplay and wild abandon an apt metaphor for a debauched culture or is his work a release for both himself as the perpetrator of the imaginings and for the voyeuristic perspective?

What might have seemed to be solely a flight of fancy into naughty-making, has now gained the credence of a commitment and the story has even progressed to encompass raunchier sexual exploits with more brutal retaliation against the harassment metered out by the 'other', be it dog or girl. This work is not as simplistic as the pitching of good against evil, despite the angelic face of the girl or the gradual leaning of the physiognomy of the dog to goat-ishness for the girl gets down and dirty as well. Neither is hanging on to appearances and in fact the girl has been showing her witch-y side, throwing back the liquor with apparent relish and riding the strangled canine hard.

This is permissive abandon, bestiality and bad messy fun. There seems to be no moral amidst the searing colors and libidinous sweeps of paint. From the contemporary awareness of a world with a political climate of masked purposes, incomprehensible corporate power-mongering and materialistic prompts, it's a relief to spend some quality time following the scatological incorrectness of McCloskey's girl and dog..



Bird Hunt
paint & collage on paper, 38 x 50 in
2005



Attack In The Park I
paint & collage on paper, 22 x 30 in
2005



Attack In The Park II
paint & collage on paper, 38 x 50 in
2005



Incident In The Park
paint & collage on paper, 38 x 50 in
2005



Park Art
paint & collage on paper, 38 x 50 in
2002



Red Sox
paint & collage on paper, 22 x 30 in
2003



Halloween
paint & collage on paper, 22 x 30 in
2005



69 Monster
paint & collage on paper, 22 x 30 in
2005



Drinking Party II
paint & collage on paper, 22 x 30 in
2005



New England Gothic
paint & collage on paper, 22 x 30 in
2005

Jesse McCloskey

Jesse McCloskey is a fine artist living in New York City.

SOLO SHOWS

- Christopher Henry Gallery, New York, NY 2006
- Capla Kesting Fine Art Williamsburg Brooklyn 2005
- Brooklyn Brewery Exhibition Hall, Williamsburg 2000
- Parkside Studio Open House 1999
- Parkside Studio Open House 1998

GROUP SHOWS

- Headbones, The Drawers, Inaugural Drawer's Selection 2006
- Capla Kesting fine art, Preview show Williamsburg brooklyn 2005
- Chicago Art Fair/ATM Gallery 2004
- Barrett Art Center New Hudson River School exhibition 2003
- Islip Art Museum "Noah's Ark" group exhibition 2003
- Swain School Alumni and Faculty Show 2003
- The Hudson River Museum Auctiion 2003
- The Rye Arts Center 2001,2003
- EMC2 Gallery , Williamsburg 2002
- Side Show Gallery, Williamsburg 2002
- Yaddo Variations 2002 Benefit 2002
- Painting Center, Soho,exhibition with Paul Resika, David L Smith 1999
- Searles/Spicer Showroom 1997
- Cast Iron Gallery, Soho 1996

REVIEWS

- The New York Times, work reviewed and reproduced by:
Critic, Helen A Harrison 7/13/03

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