



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Laurie Sponagle

Highly Recommended

January 11 - February 20, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Laurie Sponagle

Julie Oakes

Charcoal is usually used to register looseness and not so concerned with precision. Laurie Sponagle defies this convention and it is in her defiance that her definitive renderings rise above the common lot. With charcoal powder and masking, Sponagle is able to gain the deep blacks of the charcoal, an unruly substance that likes to drift away from tight enclosures and reign in the evocative medium that seems to come with built-in shadows and mystery. By concentrating on specific subject matter, in this case interiors and nudes, the medium becomes the common denominator. Each subject area retains a consistent look, although similar to each other through a cool psychological tone.

The chairs have been assigned the personalities of those who sat on them. Within the rigid lines of wainscoting and framework, the implied presence of humanity is infused in the construction of the man-made environ as well as the vague auras of inhabitants past. With rich lush blacks and pristine sharp lines, Laurie Sponagle infuses an animation into the venue, as if a ghost was sitting there, warming the wood and holding spooky, silent court.

In an empathic placement with the chairs, her nudes fix humanity in a cold contrast of black and white. Without heads, they have no identity. They are as cool as alabaster, not so much stopped in the middle of motion, but posing. Who they are is not important. They exist as a phenomenon of neutrality where the body is engaged in no more than the occupation of space. This stasis, - faceless, nameless and unmotivated- is more like a thing than a person.

The chairs have been lent the identity of sitters. The nudes have assumed the clarity of an inanimate object. Sponagle, through her controlling artfulness has mastered her medium to omnipotent ends.



Conversations With Time - The Fulford Chairs (Mabel Ellis)
charcoal on paper, 29 x 22 inches
2006



Untitled (Female #10)
charcoal on paper, 22 x 14 in
2005



Conversations With Time (After The Journey)
charcoal on paper, 29 x 22 inches
2006



Untitled (Male #9)
charcoal on paper, 22 x 14 in
2005



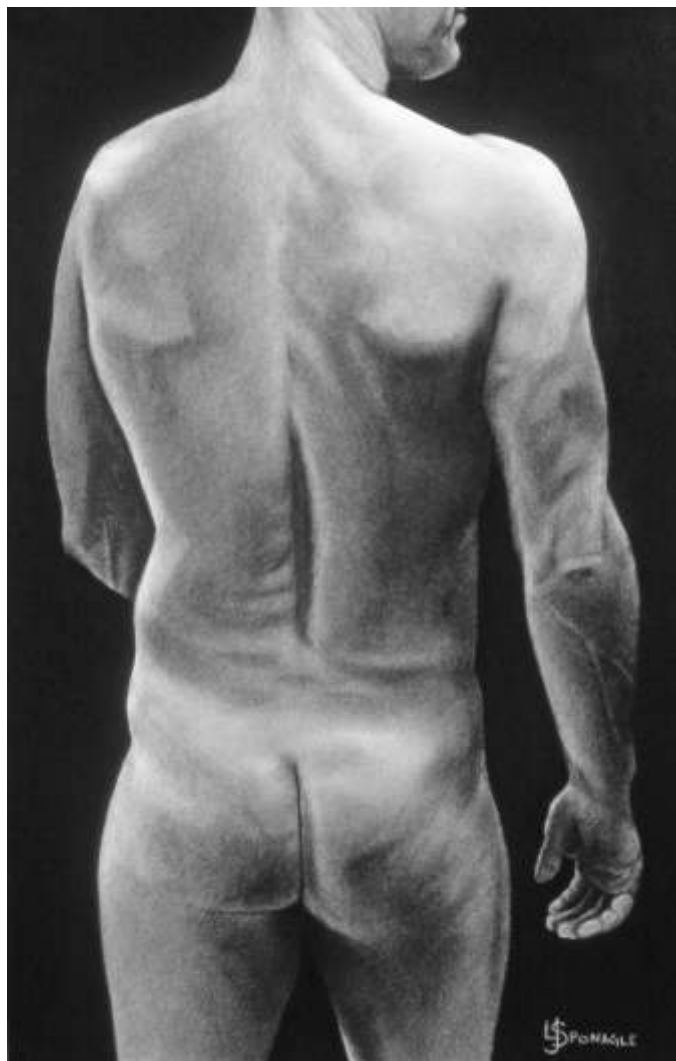
Conversations With Time (After The Fable)
charcoal on paper, 29 x 22 inches
2006



Untitled (Female #13)
charcoal on paper, 22 x 14 in
2006



Conversations With Time (After The Recess)
charcoal on paper, 29 x 22 inches
2006



Untitled (Male Back)
charcoal on paper, 22 x 14 in
2000



Conversations With Time - The Fulford Chairs (Mrs. A Bryvois)
charcoal on paper, 29 x 22 inches
2006



Untitled (Female Right #2)
charcoal on paper, 22 x 14 in
2000



Conversations With Time - The Fulford Chairs (George T. Fulford III)
charcoal on paper, 29 x 22 inches
2006



Untitled (Male #10)
charcoal on paper, 22 x 14 in
2004

Laurie Sponagle

Education

- 1988-93 University of Guelph (Honours BA, Specializing in Fine Arts)
2001 1000 Islands Summer School of the Arts, St. Lawrence College
Design and Personal Style with Models (Alex Powers)
2006 Drawing Process: Finding & Making your own mark (Peter Kolisnyk)

Solo Exhibitions

- 2006 *Conversations with Time: Fulford Chairs*, Fulford Place Museum, Brockville, ON
2005 1000 Islands Playhouse, Gananoque, ON
2003 Amanda's Slip, Kemptonville ON
2001 Boboli, Brockville, ON

Juried Art Exhibitions

- 2005 Frederic Remington Art Museum, International Juried Art Exhibit, Ogdensburg NY
2005 Pelham Art Festival, Fonthill, ON
2004-06 Toronto Art Expo, Toronto, ON
2003-05 Ottawa Art Festival, Ottawa, ON
2000-06 Rideau Valley Art Festival, Westport, ON

Selected Group Exhibitions (selected)

- 2005 *4 from Here to There*, Moth Gallery, Merrickville, ON
2005-06 Art in the City Studio Tour, Brockville, ON
2004-06 Autumn Leaves Studio Tour, Mallorytown, ON
2004-05 Up the Garden Path, Garden and Studio Tour, Mallorytown, ON
2002-04 Brockville Public Library
2004 The Gallery Café, Kingston, ON

Grants & Awards

2005 The Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation
2006 Exhibition Grant, Ontario Arts Council, Fulford Place Museum Exhibit

Teaching St. Lawrence College, Brockville, ON
2005 Continuing Education: Basic Drawing
2004 Continuing Education: Basic Drawing
2003 Continuing Education: Charcoal The Still Life, Weekend Workshop
2002 1000 Islands Summer School of the Arts: Workshops
The Fine Art of Framing (2 Day), Introduction to Charcoal (3 Day)

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