

The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Work'n It

January 10 - February 14, 2008

Bruce Montcombroux



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, Bruce Montcombroux
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This catalog was created for the exhibition titled "Work'n It"
at Headbones Gallery, The Drawers, Toronto, Canada, January 10 - February 14, 2008

Commentary by Julie Oakes
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Rich Fog Micro Publishing, printed in Toronto, 2008
Layout and Design, Richard Fogarty

Printed on the Ricoh SPC 811DN

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RICH FOG



Micro Publishing
Toronto Canada

Bruce Montcombroux

Work'n It

This is a boy's world, derived from Meccano sets, Tinkertoys, model airplanes and forts built from dilapidated snow fences. The constructions, depicted and actual (Montcombroux also builds dioramas), have a higgledy-piggledy engineering that retain a touch of the hand in the modeled areas or the recorded pressure as the line veers from thin to thick, drifting through the space of the page. The coloring holds a hint of the illustrational, as does the delineation as if we are reviewing a manual replete with directions and visual instructions. But it is impossible to get away from the mad cap aura of the constructions, the sense that an insane inventor has decided to build his way out of the necessity of employing proper methods, heeding codes and stress levels, to reign free in a kingdom of his own making. There seems to be more of a miniature tool kit than a box of pencils and brushes behind the work. That the elaborate towers, flying machines and hybrid automobiles could not possibly work might be a double freedom on his inventive agenda. The gap that exists between expectation and accomplishment is banished, the stress of struggling to keep up dissipates and creativity rules.

In a society that, despite the onslaught of manufactured goods, is still intrigued and admires workmanship and detail, the amount of time these drawings require for completion, the amount of work evident in the pieces causes admiration. It speaks from the outset of man's labour and the meeting of his efforts with the dreams of completion that fuelled them. Not to mention talent, another immeasurable aspect of the making of an artwork – Montcombroux evidently has a natural draftsman's hand. This form of homespun knowledge is metaphorically inserted into his drawings with his use of wood, a natural building material on the airplanes, for instance, an airplane usually built of materials that reflects the epitome of scientific structural strength and durability.

In a world overrun with acumen, where the opportunity to excel is often dictated by years of training, especially in engineering professions, ideas may be aborted by the fear of their birth being a sheer impossibility. Montcombroux has adopted an open control policy by denying the concept of a failed lifeline. He proliferates the dubious, weird and wacky offspring of his genius. He expands through a new and unfettered production of parts, mechanical cells, or buds. He is determined to increase in number, to multiply in his rickety bed of sticks, and with his inverted diagrams giving private instruction, he climbs a ladder rung by rung - as he erects it. Adding to and taking away from the strictures of industrial materials usage, Bruce Montcombroux creates the ultimate widget, only to supercede his final step with the onset of his next new idea.

Julie Oakes



Construction I - 2006
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (44x30 inches)





Construction II - 2006
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (44x30 inches)





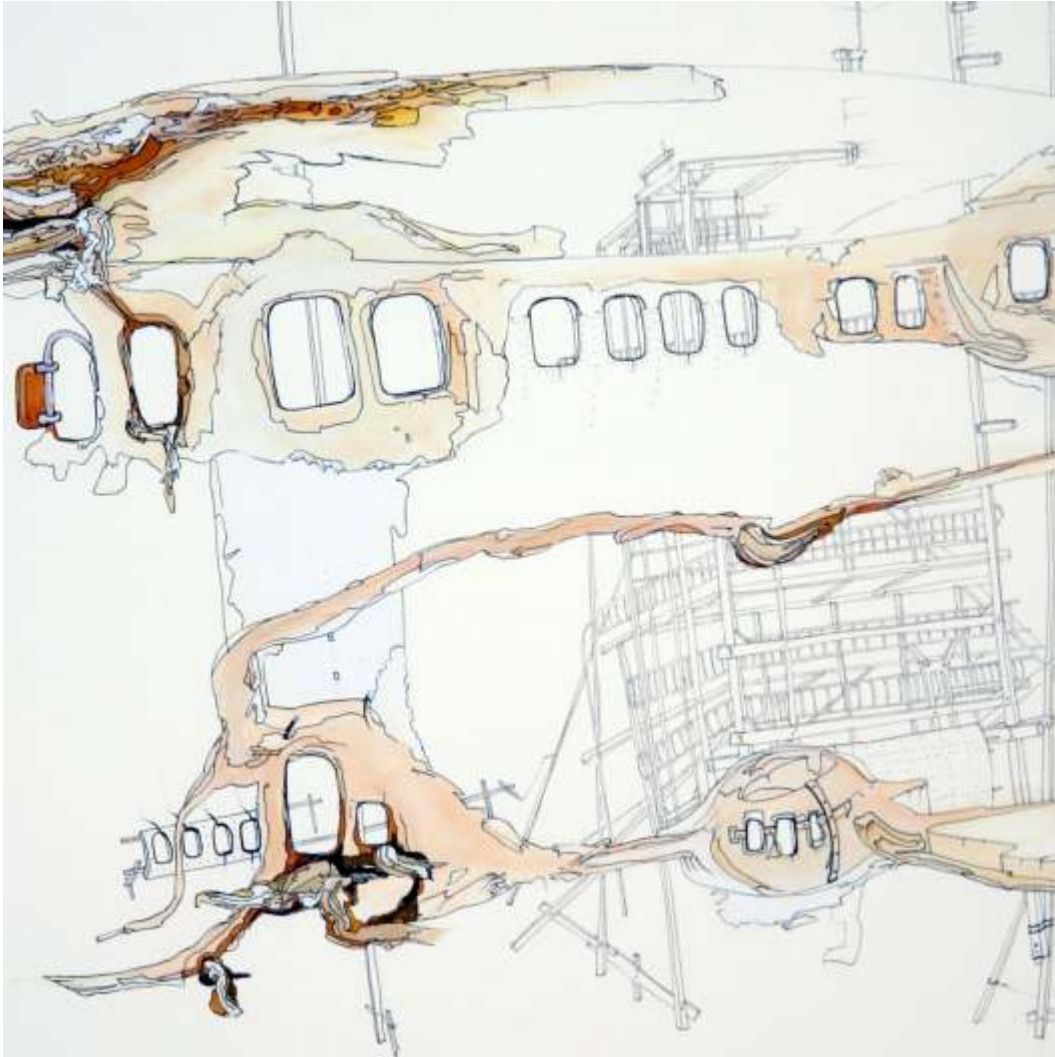
Construction III - 2006
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (44x30 inches)





Construction IV - 2006
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (44x30 inches)





Construction V- 2006
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (44x30 inches)





Construction VI- 2006
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (44x30 inches)





EP3- 2007
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (15x22 inches)



Ep3 -II - 2007
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (15x22 inches)



Hawk- 2007
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (15x22 inches)



Tower- 2006
ink, gouache & acrylic on paper (22x15 inches)

Bruce Montcombroux

Solo Exhibitions

(upcoming) TBA
Kenderdine Art Gallery, Saskatoon SK

2007
Modal Auxiliary, Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, Saskatoon SK

Group Exhibitions

(upcoming) 2009-2010
TBA, Forest City Gallery, London, ON

2007-2008
The 1950 Ford Show, (guest curator Anthony Easton) Art Gallery Of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

2007
What's Been Done, Artlab, University of Western Ontario ON
5x7, Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, Saskatoon SK

2006
Shoot It, Stuff It, Show It., Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, Saskatoon SK

2005
P.S., aceartic, Winnipeg MB
University of Manitoba Fine Arts Open House, Gallery One One One, Winnipeg MB

2004
Aesthetically Pleasing, GOSA (University of Manitoba Gallery of Student Art), Winnipeg MB
College Pro - a painting exhibition, Outworks Gallery, Winnipeg MB

Presentations

Panel Discussion - *What's Been Done*, Artlab, University of Western Ontario ON

Publications

The Sheaf - *Behind the scenes show*
Paperweight - *Critical Distance*, volume 10:5

Awards

2005 University of Saskatchewan - President's Fund

2005 - 2007 Graduate Teaching Fellowship - University of Saskatchewan

2005 - 2007 Graduate Scholarship - University of Saskatchewan

2004 Letter of commendation - Eموke J.E. Szathm ry - President, University of Manitoba

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