

The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Work'n It

January 10 - February 14, 2008

Z'otz* Collective



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Erik Jerezano
Ilyana Mart nez
Nah m Flores

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Artist Catalog, Z'otz* Collective
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Commentary by Julie Oakes
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RICH FOG



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Work'n It

It is almost antithetical to creation that a communal practice should invent rather than a single, egocentric notion. Within industry, science, education, even government – the power of constructive group decisions have furthered invention and yet the visual arts have traditionally been a one man show. The exception would be the workshops that surrounded the old masters and yet Z'otz* is far from a hierarchical creative endeavour and closer to an exercise in equality. Perhaps the consuming growth in population has furthered a trend towards artistic collaborations or the famously socialistic Canadian politics have rubbed off on the arts community. Whatever the cause, the results have pushed the envelopes of individual expression wide open with the addition of both techniques and subject. Not only the merging of drawing styles but the personal preferences towards images are passed back and forth between the members of the Z'otz* and much like the passing of a baby around the members of a tribe, the progeny flourishes and grows beyond a more singular parenting.

Z'otz* goes for an immediate read and then a more subtle afterglow. The graphic potency, especially in the standing figures, is almost poster-like and inspires visions of both enlargements or reductions. The drawings in this series would make stunning, cinematic billboards or sharp postage stamps. The articulation of the line is acute and the balance between detailing and structural forms apt to the scale.

Their work is curious, so much so that the oddness of the name tends to be overlooked in the perusal of eclectic visuals. This energetic collective of drawers consisting of Erik Jerezano, Nah m Flores and Ilyana Mart nez, meet Sundays to pass the paper and reshape their individual visual destinies to a more communal and social end. To visit the studio while they are working is much like visiting a den of puppies, cavorting and wagging their tales at their mischievous interchanges. The wit and ingenuity of the collaborative output is uppermost – and wasn't the abandonment of the ego in favour of the enhanced formula of additive perspectives the object of the exercise? Objective attained!

Julie Oakes



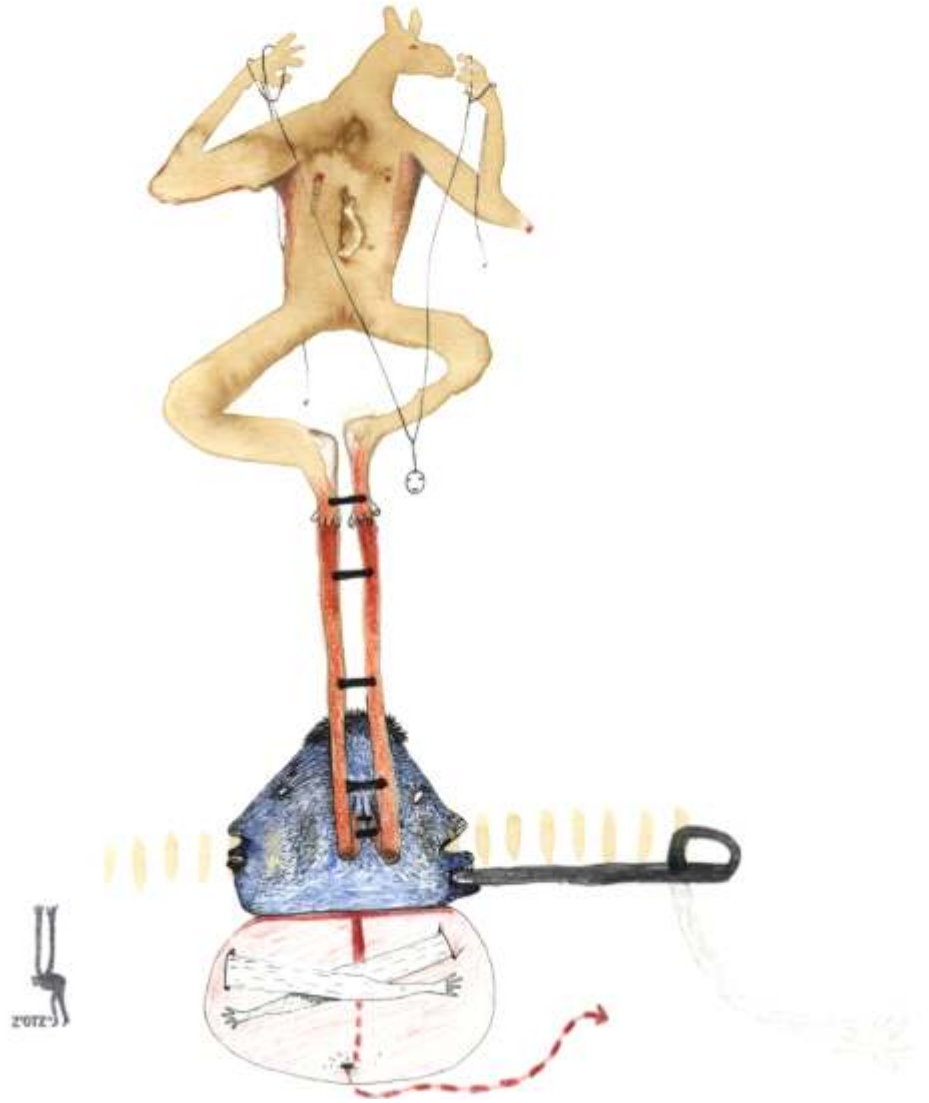
Masked Savage - 2006
mixed media on paper (11x13 inches)



The Versace Parade - 2007
mixed media on paper (11x15 inches)



The Meeting - 2007
mixed media on paper (11x15 inches)



Red Elbow - 2006
mixed media on paper (10x13 inches)



Bureaucrat's Migraine - 2007
mixed media on paper (11x15 inches)



The Architect's Dream - 2006
mixed media on paper (10x13 inches)



Counting The Days - 2006
mixed media on paper (10x13 inches)



Narcissus' Pets - 2007
mixed media on paper (11x15 inches)



The Idol's Disguise - 2007
mixed media on paper (11x15 inches)



Unborn Tree - 2006
mixed media on paper (11x15 inches)



Tales of a Man who Found Eternity - 2007
mixed media on paper (11x15 inches)



Desired Intruders - 2007
mixed media on paper (11x15 inches)

Z'otz* Collective

Exhibitions 2008

New Works, G+ Galleries, Toronto

Work'n It, HeadbonesThe Drawers, Toronto

Best of 2007, Award Winners from Toronto International Outdoor Art Exhibition, First Canadian Place Gallery, Toronto

Exhibitions 2007

Strategies of the Millipede, Spence Gallery, Toronto

Tales from the man who found eternity in an empty can, A Space Gallery, Toronto

Desired Intruders, G+ Galleries, Toronto

Showcase.07, Cambridge Galleries, Cambridge, Ontario

Drawing the Line, Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts, Millville, New Jersey

The Sharp Farewell, Distrikt Gallery, Belgrade, Serbia

Modified Intuition, Vertigo Gallery, Vernon, British Columbia

The Advantage of Being Mortal, Galerie St-Abroise, Montreal, Quebec

The Brick and the Table: A Love Story, The Stairwell, Art Gallery of Peterborough, Peterborough, Ontario

Best of 2006, Award Winners from Toronto International Outdoor Art Exhibition, First Canadian Place Gallery, Toronto

Exhibitions 2006

Toronto International Art Fair, Martin Kletzel Contemporary Art, Toronto

Artwalk - St. Clair Arts Festival, Wychwood Avenue, Toronto

Do Hands make us Human, Hangman Gallery, Toronto

Digital Evento, Latin American New Media Exhibition, Gallery 1313, Toronto

Making Rain without Bothering the Clouds, Art Square Gallery, Toronto

eX Margins: Ideas of Collaboration, Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts, Toronto

A Little Courtesy with the Sun, Praxis Gallery, Toronto

Un/l. Harbourfront Centre, Ritmo y Color Festival, Toronto

Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto

Exhibitions 2005

Lost Cause, Buried Love and other Short Tales, Praxis Gallery, Toronto

McCleave CrossCanada Tour, Suitcase Exhibition, ODD Gallery, Dawson City, Yukon

Useless Depths, Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts, Toronto

Idiom tica, Lennox Gallery, Toronto

smaller3 miniature exhibition, Neutral Ground, Regina

McCleave CrossCanada Tour, Suitcase Exhibition, Ministry of Casual Living, Victoria

The Nomad Pencil Sessions, Tequila Bookworm, TorontoResidencies

International Multidisciplinary Art Residency In conjunction with the Loznica Cultural Center and Belgrade School of Fine Arts. Trsic, Serbia, Summer 2007

Media and Reviews

“Various Cities: Suitcase Galleries”, Leah Sandals, spacing Magazine, Winter 2006.

“Idiom tica, Lennox Contemporary, Toronto” Susan Douglas, Canadian Art Magazine, Winter 2005.

Mary McKenzie, Flack 3, Fall 2005.

“More to Life.” Interview with Mary Ito. TV Ontario, April 15, 2005.

“Here and Now: Go-2-it Visual Arts.” CBC Radio One, April 12, 2005.

“Collective art group Z'otz* unpacks its suitcase” Humber etCetera, April 7, 2005.

Awards

Honourable Mention, Drawing. Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition 2007

Honourable Mention, Watercolour. Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition 2006

Collections

Private Collections in Portugal, Mexico, England, Inuvik NWT, Regina SK, Toronto ON

* Z'otz is the Mayan word for “bat”.

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