



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper*

Mary Hrbacek

X-Country Selection

October 12 - November 16, 2006



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Artist Catalog, 'Mary Hrbacek - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '  
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# Mary Hrbacek

## X-Country Selection

The tree has become an important symbol as the diminishing returns of earth draw an ecological picture that shows our historical rape and pillage of the mighty forests as part and parcel of the present demise. The ozone is weakened but even sadder, the wonder at the grand old-growth tree where generations are recorded in the widening circumferences that make up the trunk is becoming a rare experience. It is little surprise that with the simpatico that humanity has with the tree, the tree could be depicted in such a way as to display characteristics that resemble humans. Mary Hrbacek brings trees from the botanical into the human plane as she vests them with characterizations that veer on definitive personalities. She grants the gnarled barked elders or the young nubile budding trees a combination of respect and consideration. She identifies the origin; Brooklyn trees, Chinese trees, trees in Viareggio or Central Park, trees from Vermont. She titles each tree and in doing so furthers her interpretation of the familiar shapes.

Family trees, growing from the central trunk and showing the connections of the limbs and the mutual support that the branches lend to the whole parallel the symbolic in Hrbacek's World Tree Series.

With a sure dense line and the added isolation of particular framing, the trunks and limbs begin to dance, waving their arms in the air and striding from their rooted existence into a new domain where fixedness is transcended. Without dwelling on unnecessary details of bark or lichen growth, Hrbacek picks the facets that will further advance this new illusion of freedom. That her studio, in Harlem, is stationary (rooted) within the concrete thicket of the famous city is significant and that the rendering is strong, hip, assertive and almost 'jive' is just the attitude needed to gain sufficient notice within the barrage of city slickness. Hrbacek's trees may have originated in Italy or China but they have been adapted to the Western world and a new brave American life under the graphic tutelage of Hrbacek. They are like the pastiche of New Yorkers, hanging out in Central Park or Williamsburg or bringing to the cultural plain the freshness of Vermont or the exotic heritage of the Orient and Europe. Their origins lending strength to their new adaptation, they have become a new breed of tree, a generation removed from their homeland existing in the art scene with a competitive presence.



Turned Around, Williamsburg, Brooklyn  
charcoal on paper  
30 x 22 in  
2003



Multi-Faceted, Central Park, NYC  
charcoal on paper  
30 x 22 in  
2001



Hanging Suspended, Viareggio, Italy  
charcoal on paper  
30 x 22 in  
2001



Monster, Viareggio, Italy  
charcoal on paper  
30 x 22 in  
2001





Gender Bender, Viareggio, Italy  
charcoal on paper  
30 x 22 in  
2006



Haunted and Inhabited, Pisa, Italy  
*charcoal on paper*  
30 x 22 in  
2006



Monumental, Pisa, Italy  
*charcoal on paper*  
30 x 22 in  
2006



Wave Goodbye, Vermont, US  
charcoal on paper  
30 x 22 in  
2006



Hollowed Out and Haunted, Vermont, US  
*charcoal on paper*  
30 x 22 in  
2006



Last Dance, Vermont, US  
*charcoal on paper*  
30 x 22 in  
2006

# Mary Hrbacek

## AWARDS

- 1999 "American Drawing Biennial VI," MUSCARELLE MUSEUM, College of William & Mary, VA,  
Curator: ANN PHILBIN, THE DRAWING CENTER, NYC. JUROR'S PRIZE.
- 1999 "Yosemite Renaissance," YOSEMITE MUSEUM GALLERY, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CA;  
Traveled to 7 sites, Curator: OAKLAND MUSEUM, CA

## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY  
The National Academy of Design, NYC  
The Trenton City Museum, Trenton, NJ  
The Muscarelle Museum, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA  
The Yosemite National Park Museum Gallery, Yosemite NYC National Park, CA

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 ROGER SMITH LOBBY SERIES, "World Tree Series, Drawings" Curator: Matthew Semler, NYC
- 2002 PROGRESSIVE GALLERY AT THE WELL, NYC
- 2001 FLORA DANICA GALERIE, NYC, "Metamorphoses"
- 1999 TRENTON CITY MUSEUM, "Invitationals at Ellarslie," Curator: B. Peterson, Michener Art Museum, PA
- 1992 POSITIVELY 104TH STREET, NYC, "Southwest Landscapes"
- 1989 ADELPHI MANHATTAN CENTER GALLERIES, "Landscapes"

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 "The Drawers, Works on Paper," Headbones Gallery, Toronto, ON  
"Nurturing the Edge," Spring Gala for NURTUREART, CUE FOUNDATION, Chelsea, NYC  
"Art Supermarket," A Benefit for THE;ARTIST;NETWORK, NYC
- 2005 "War Is Over," SIDESHOW GALLERY, Williamsburg, Brooklyn  
"Postcards from the Edge, ROBERT MILLER GALLERY, NYC  
"Night of 1000 Drawings, ARTISTS SPACE , NY, NY  
THE PARRISH ART MUSEUM, Southampton, NY, JURORS:S. Nightingale Gallery, A.Budick,  
Newsday, J.Brody, Editor, Print Collector's Newsletter.
- 2004 "Holiday Show," SIDESHOW GALLERY, Williamsburg, Brooklyn  
"Postcards from the Edge," BRENT SIKKEMA GALLERY, NYC  
"Night of 1000 Drawings, ARTISTS SPACE, NYC  
"artincubator," ETHAN COHEN GALLERY, NYC  
"The Clothesline Show," Benefit for ABCNO RIO, NYC  
"Pool Art Addict," New York Underground Art Fair, Four Points Hotel, Chelsea, NYC
- 2002 "Drawing Conclusions II," NY ARTS MAGAZINE GALLERY, Curators: G. Savannah and J. Conner  
"Winter Exhibition," MONIQUE GOLDSTROM GALLERY, NYC
- 2001 "Counting Coup/Undo," Theatre for the New City, NYC  
"Xtreme Xteriors," GALLERY X, NYC  
"Art & Performance," SIDESHOW, Williamsburg, NYC  
"Women & Children in Solidarity with Afghan Women's Mission, Gallery One-Twenty-Eight, NYC

- 2000 TRENTON CITY MUSEUM, Curator: Kristen Accola, HUNTINGTON MUSEUM OF ART, PA  
 "Fantasy and Desire," ART/WORKS, Trenton, NJ  
 "Koridor," with GALLERY X, NYC
- 1999 "Drawings," ART STUDENTS LEAGUE, NYC
- 1997 "Great Plains National," MOSS THORNS GALLERY, Fort Hays St U, Curator: Deborah Scott
- 1996 "California Through the Artists Eyes," FRESNO CITY HALL, CA  
 "Positive/Negative II," SLOCOMB GALLERIES, East TN State U., TN
- 1995 Art Initiatives, NYC  
 "Global Awareness," CITY GOVERNMENT CENTER, Harrisburg, PA  
 "Artists National," COASTAL ARTS CENTER, St. Simmons Is, GA, Curator: Dr. Henry Adams, Harvard University, CUMMER MUSEUM, FL  
 "Works on Paper," SWTEXAS STATE UNI GALLERY, TX, Curator: LUCY LIPPARD
- 1993 "Nature Morte: A Current View," Curator: JUDY RIFKA, NYC  
 "Drawing '92," BENT F. LARSEN GALLERY, Brigham Young U, Utah, Curator: Donald Perry  
 "American Drawing Biennial III," MUSCARELLE MUSEUM OF ART, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA, Curator: JACK BEAL
- 1991 WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER, Watchung NJ, Curator: Dr. Hildreth York, Rutgers University, NJ  
 NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN, NYC  
 "Representations," HELIO GALLERIES, NYC  
 20/20 Show, HELIO GALLERIES, Curator: TED CASTLE, "Art in America"  
 Hudson Valley 86, MID-HUDSON ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER, Poughkeepsie, NY Curator: HOLLY SOLOMON, NYC

#### PRESS

- 2002 Korotkin, Joyce, Mary Elizabeth Hrbacek "Metamorphoses," NY Arts, January
- 2002 Faust, Lily, Article "The Tree." (unpublished)
- 1999 U.S 1, Princeton, NJ, TAWA INVITATIONAL, Mary Hrbacek "Close Call" reproduced, July
- 1998 Simone, Ashley, "Art Show Alive and Well at Muscarelle", The Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg,
- 1992 Bledsoe, Shari, "Drawings as varied as their number," The Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg, Apr

#### EDUCATION

B.S. University of Dayton, OH  
 M.S. Adelphi University, NY, Magna Cum Laude  
 San Francisco Art Institute, CA  
 The Art Students League  
 Fashion Institute of Technology



RICH FOG



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