



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

Ruth Waldman

Narrative?

March 18, - April 20, 2006



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Artist Catalog, 'Ruth Waldman - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Ruth Waldman

Narrative?

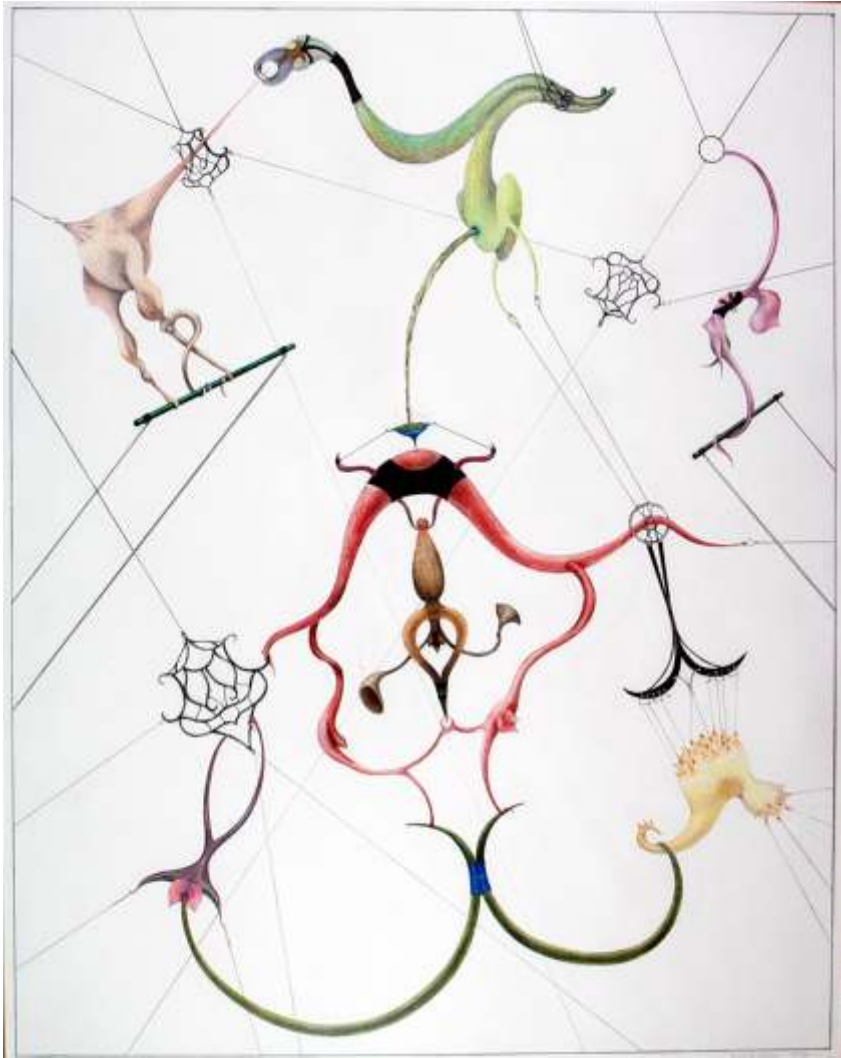
With allusions to bondage, Ruth Waldman's trussed biomorphic forms are both playful and memorable like a good session of bondage carried out by an ardent lover. The forms, unattractive beings, provoke a fascination with their grotesqueness that is tempered by the range of colors (melon, mauve, tangerine, turquoise and pink). The saccharine tints, fine trussing, filigree couplings and curvaceous shapes draw one in for closer inspection, trusting that there will be pleasantries. But on inspection, the harnesses, pierces, lacings and pricks appear tighter and sharper. The colors describe flesh, filtered to fool and attract so that the plight of the misshapen is examined with delighted curiosity and titillated wonder. Having examined the strung-out little beings (even on large formats the characters are small), the residual taste is still not bitter; if anything it is sweeter, a near-morbid fascination. The delicate treatment of the rendering creates awe rather than revulsion despite the bulbous extrusions or stretched and wrinkled flaps.

The sexual innuendo is pointed. Corsets finely sculpt the bulbous forms. Skirts are parted, legs are spread and organs exposed. Veins reveal the pulse of excitement. Swellings plump up with juices. The manipulation of body parts is carried out with elegant trappings of torture, clean and precise.

The illusions to art history are many. There are flat floating memories of Paul Klee's zany creatures, Bosch's organic sprouting tendrils minus the moral overtones, Kandinsky's curves or medieval tapestries. Dr. Seuss is invoked with his illustrative charm gone wild in an orgy of balanced pushes and pulls. Mechanical guy wires hold the balance in place within a white pristine space that suggests more beyond the borders of the paper. Who or what is exerting the tension?



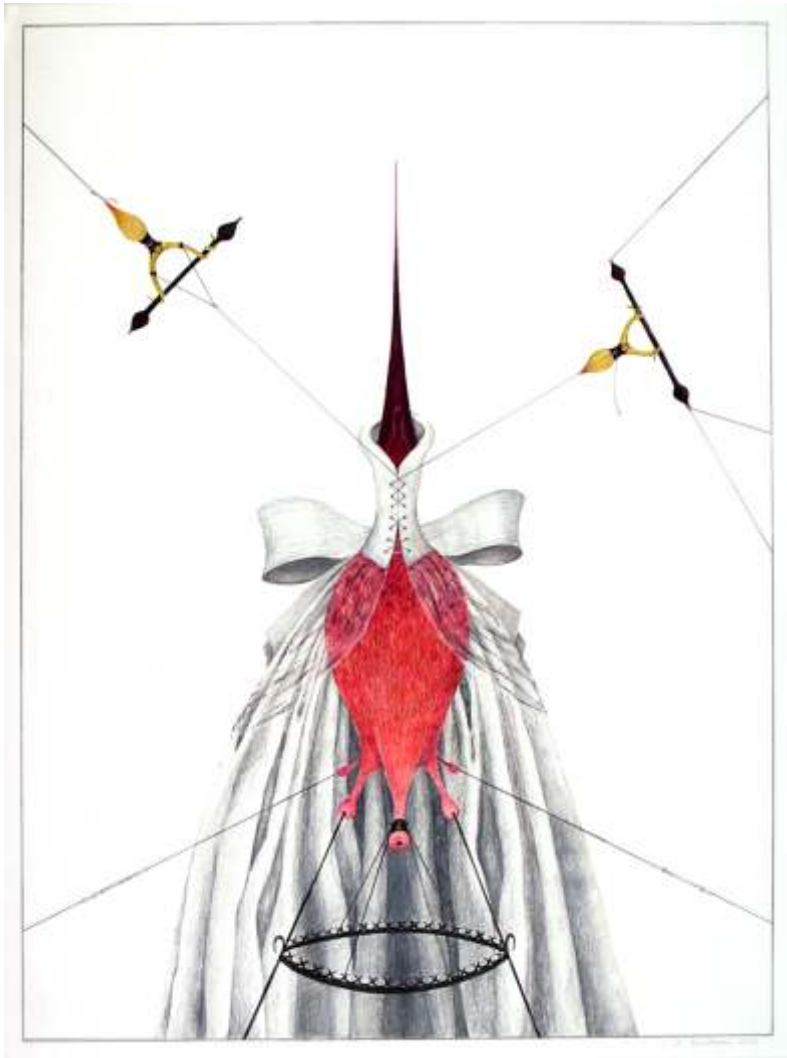
Yellow Monster
colored pencil on paper
24"x18"
2002



Circus
colored pencil on paper
24"x18"
2002



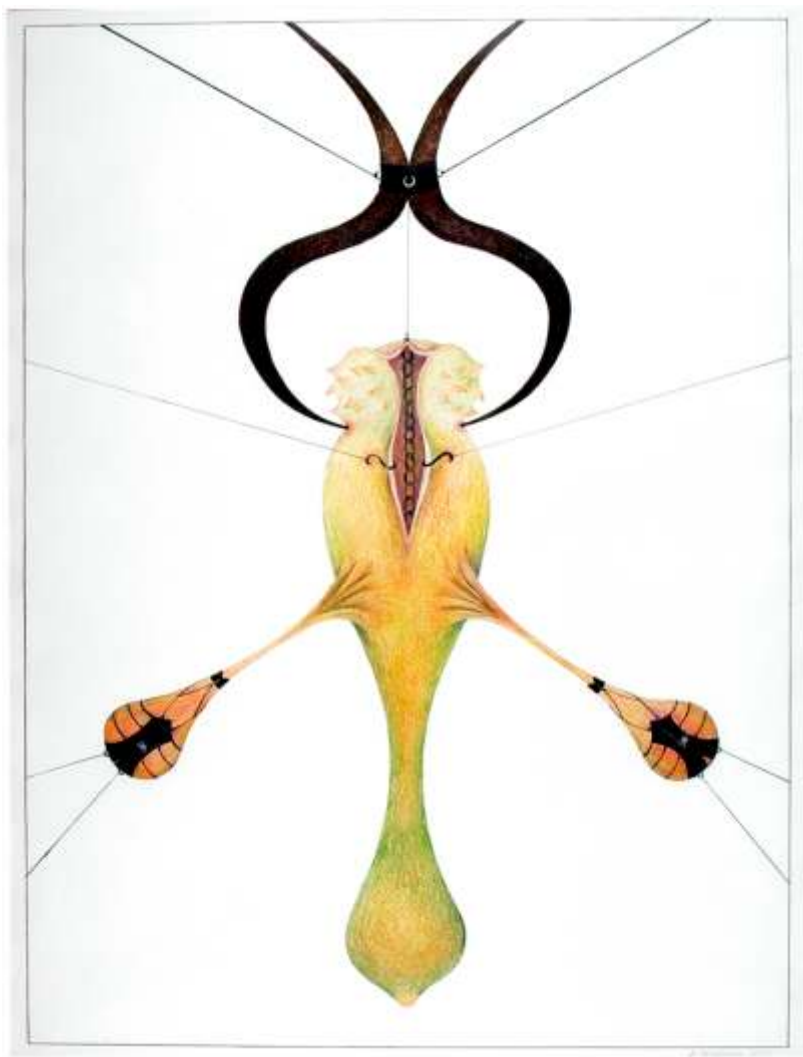
Purple Monster
tinted gesso, graphite, coloured pencil
30"x22"
2005



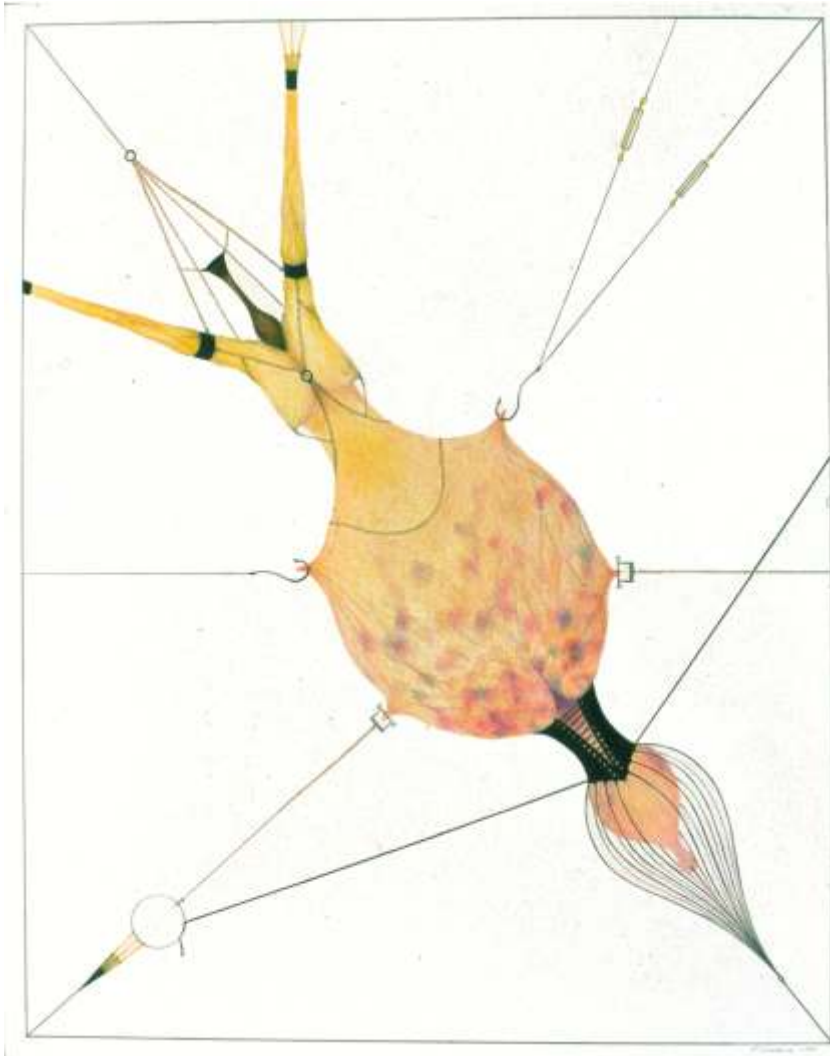
Bridesmaids
colored pencil on paper
24"x18"
2001



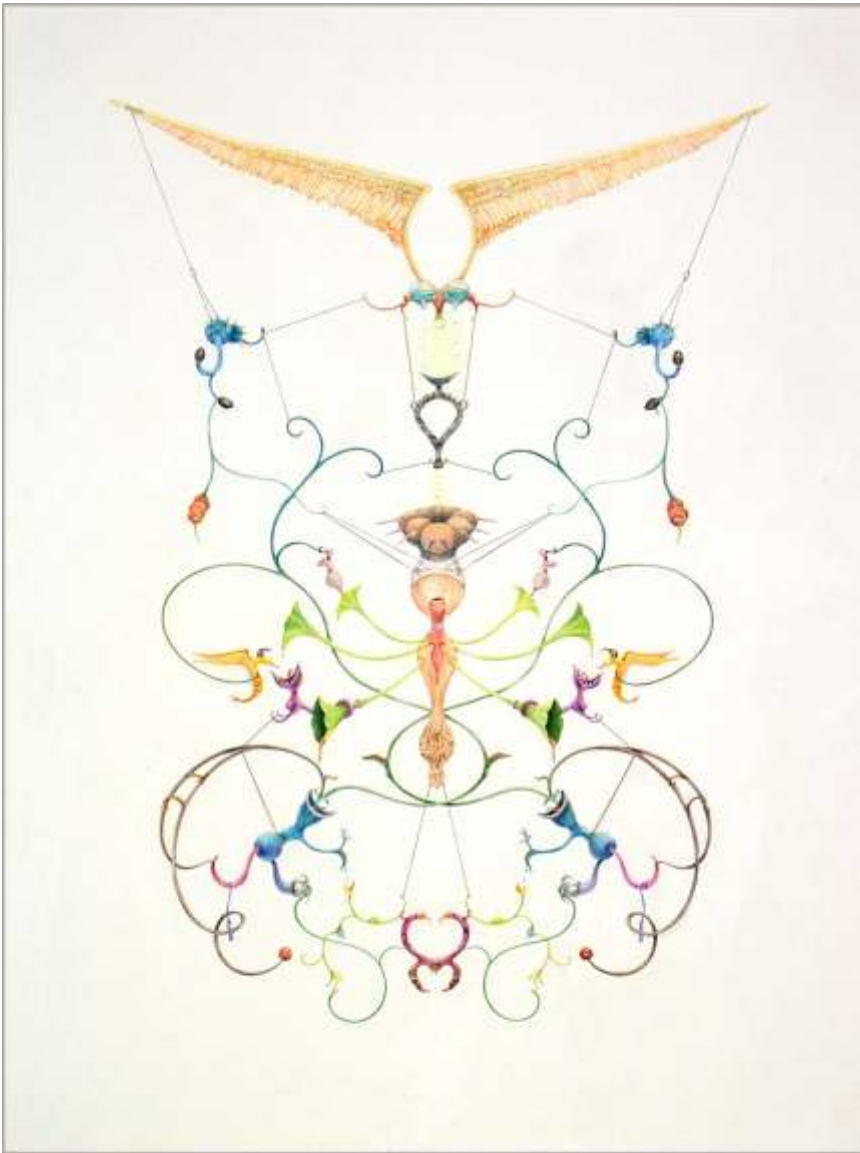
Untitled (016)
colored pencil on paper
24"x19"
2001



Untitled (07)
colored pencil on paper
24"x18"
2001



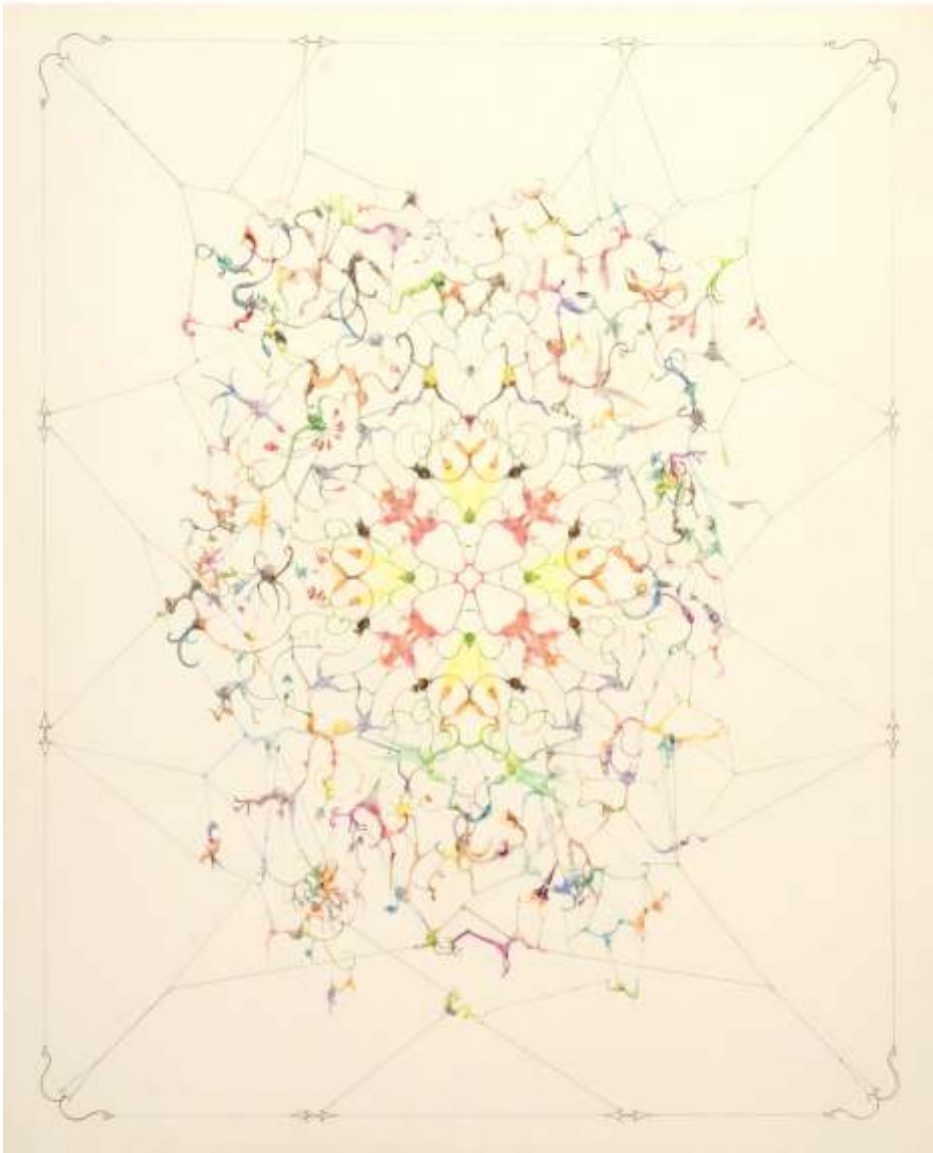
Untitled (015)
colored pencil on paper
24"x19"
2001



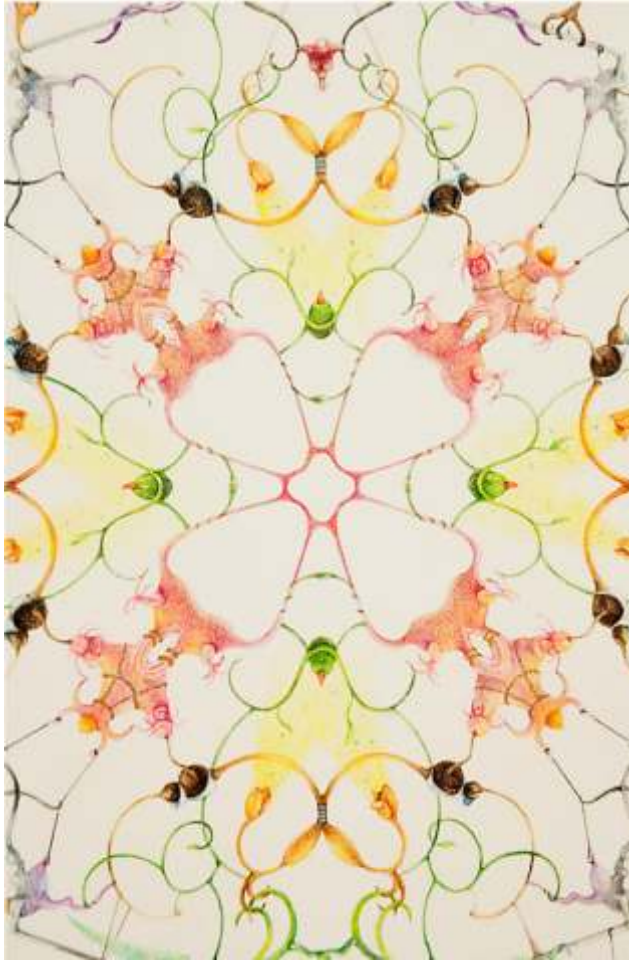
Untitled (026)
colored pencil and ink on paper
24"x18"
2005



Between Heaven and Earth
colored pencil and ink on paper
30"x20"
2004



Untitled (028)
colored pencil and ink on paper
26"x21"
2005



Untitled (028)
detail

Ruth Waldman

EDUCATION

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, MFA	1998
Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH BA Art History	1989

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Angie Drakopoulos, Ruth Waldman, Laura Sharp Wilson, McKenzie Fine Art, NY, NY	2006
Native Spirit, Supreme Trading, Brooklyn, NY	
Narrative?, Headbones Gallery, Toronto, Canada	
The Diligent Hand, Gallery 64, Brooklyn, NY	
Transcending Everyday Reality, Hewitt Gallery, Marymount Manhattan College, NY, NY	
Caspar David Séance, Jack the Pelican, Brooklyn, NY	2005
Scope Art Fair, Miami, FL (Jack the Pelican, Brooklyn, NY)	
Beautiful Dreamers, Spaces, Cleveland, Ohio - curated by David Gibson (catalogue)	
Group Exhibition, The Parrish Museum of Art, Southampton, NY	
Radical Vaudeville, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA	
Neo-Erotic juried, Art at Large, New York, NY (Grand Prize winner)	
Everland, Annina Nosei Gallery, New York, NY - curated by David Gibson	
Contemporary Erotic Drawing, The Aldrich Contemporary Museum of Art, Ridgefield, CT	
Contemporary Erotic Drawing, Diverseworks, Houston, TX (traveling exhibition with catalogue) curated by Harry Philbrick, Sara Kellner and Stuart Horodner	
Art Chicago in the Park, (Jack the Pelican, Bklyn, NY)	
Pick Up Lines, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA	2004
Colored Pencil, KS Art, New York, NY - curated by Geoffrey Young and Kerry Schuss	
World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition, LMDC Online exhibition, www.wtcsitememorial.org	
Faculty Exhibition, Suffolk County Community College, Brentwood, NY	
Merry Peace, Sideshow, Williamsburg, Brooklyn	2003
Learning, A benefit for artists, Morgan-Lehman Gallery, Lakeville, CT	
Neo-Erotic, Art@Large, New York, NY curated by Grady T. Turner, Honorable Mention in Drawing	
Invitational Exhibition, Norwich Art Council, Norwich, CT	2002
4 Chicks, Access Theater gallery, New York, NY	
Residency exhibition, The Cooper Union, New York, NY	2000
Sculpture installation, The Lure Club, New York, NY	
Public Art proposals, The Daley Center, Chicago, IL	1999
New Talent, Contemporary Art Workshop, Chicago, IL	
MFA Exhibition, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL	1998
Group show, Red Trike Gallery, Chicago, IL	
Cast Metal, Base Space, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL	1997
Group Exhibition, Gallery 2, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL	

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Suspend, Art at Large, New York, NY	2006
Drawings, Realform project space, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY	2004
New Work, Suffolk Community College Gallery, Selden, NY	2002

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

The Viewing Program, The Drawing Center, New York, NY (juried slide file)	2002-present
Artist-in-Residence, The Cooper Union, New York, NY	2000 summer
Chicago Arts Assistance Program Grant, Chicago, IL	1999

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

"Real Art Today," Artist's presentation, Makor Steinhart Center, NY, NY	May 2005
Artist's talk, "Contemporary Erotic Drawing," The Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT	May 2005
Artist's talk, Solo show, Suffolk Community College, Selden, NY	November 2002

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Harris, Larissa, "Contemporary Erotic Drawing," Artforum Magazine, September 2005
Lewis, Zachary, "Beautiful Dreamer," On View, Cleveland Scene, Sept., 14, 2005
Gibson, David, "Beautiful Dreamers," catalogue essay, September 2005
Johnson, Ken, "Everland," NY Times review, Weekend Arts, July 8, 2005
Genocchio, Benjamin, "Erotic Goes Mainstream," Connecticut Art Review, NY Times, May 8, 2005
Horodner, Stuart, Contemporary Erotic Drawing, Exhibition catalogue, DAP, Inc., May 2005
Drury, Eric, "Pick Up Lines, Geoffrey Young Gallery," The Artful Mind, September 2004
Karlins, N.F., "Drawing Notebooks," Artnet.com, Magazine Reviews, April 20, 2004
Misner, Kirsten, "Local Artist Brings Erotic Circus to Suffolk," Compass Newspaper, October 23, 2002
"Controversial Art," Compass Newspaper, Selden, NY, May 2003
Photo credits in the Chicago Sun Times and The Reader, December 12, 1997

Artist Statement

My work explores the tension that occurs in the meeting of opposing energies and forces -- such as male and female, angelic and diabolic, tragic and comic -- and proposes that different sides of our nature co-exist in a tenuous symbiosis. I represent this with fantastic, biomorphic creatures whose interactions are simultaneously symbiotic and antagonistic. Similar to Renaissance grotesques and mythological hybrids such as the Minotaur, these creatures represent both the fusion of, and the incongruity between, the conflicting sides within the individual. It is my experience that the most compelling situations find their power in just this intractable dualism, which finds its resolution neither in affirmation nor in denial, but in a delicate balance that contains both.

RICH FOG



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