



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Jeffrey Thompson

Bona fide

May 17 - June 28, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Artist Catalog, 'Jeffrey Thompson - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Director: Richard Fogarty
www.headbonesgallery.com

Jeffrey Thompson

Julie Oakes

The thrill of recognition immediately classifies the exclamation because the drawing that has provoked the enthusiastic response often refers to an adolescent or even childhood interest. It may be a reaction to the pleasure derived from a yellow rubber duck, the archetypal bath toy. Then, growing older, the transference to plastic soldiers, superheroes or warriors was a means for children to enter into, and control, a series of relationships that were seated in the pretend personalities of the toys. *Spy Versus Spy* hits at the heartstrings of those who spent time with the characters in *Mad Magazine*, one of the first comic magazines to reach above the fantasy level of cute cartoons or superheroes and make forays into socio-political opinions. *Mad* claimed a readership that crossed from juvenile rebellion into a more adult coming of age. The black spy and white spy were loved, almost as much as the stars of the silver screen. So was Rat Fink.

The subject matter in Jeffrey Thompson's work is crucial and yet essentially, the subject is just a toy or character that made it to the top with enough aura (and financial backing) to convince the populace to embrace these icons of their formative years. Thompson, by spending careful, talented and trained time rendering the characters, grants to them a span of concerned attention and also raises them to the higher aesthetic realm of Fine Arts. Their significance is acknowledged.

Children like to draw from cartoons and adolescents from super heroes. The ability to recreate them is a discernible power, admired by their peers. Jeffrey Thompson has elevated the subject. He has dressed the original cartoons in an aesthetic that denotes maturity, elevates nostalgic pop characters to the sophisticated echelons of a high culture and by doing so with a classy clean style; he enables a response. He allows a whole new level of interaction on the part of the viewer - that of a connoisseur, one who understands the details, or principles and is competent to act as a critical judge in the current 'play'.



Spy vs. Spy - study
charcoal pencil & pastel on paper, each 45 x 36 inches
2005



Adrift, detail 1
diptych, charcoal pencil on paper, each 24 x 24 inches
2006



Adrift, detail 2
diptych, charcoal pencil on paper, each 24 x 24 inches
2006



The Absurd and Grotesque - study
diptych, charcoal pencil & pastel on paper, each 24 x 24 inches
2006



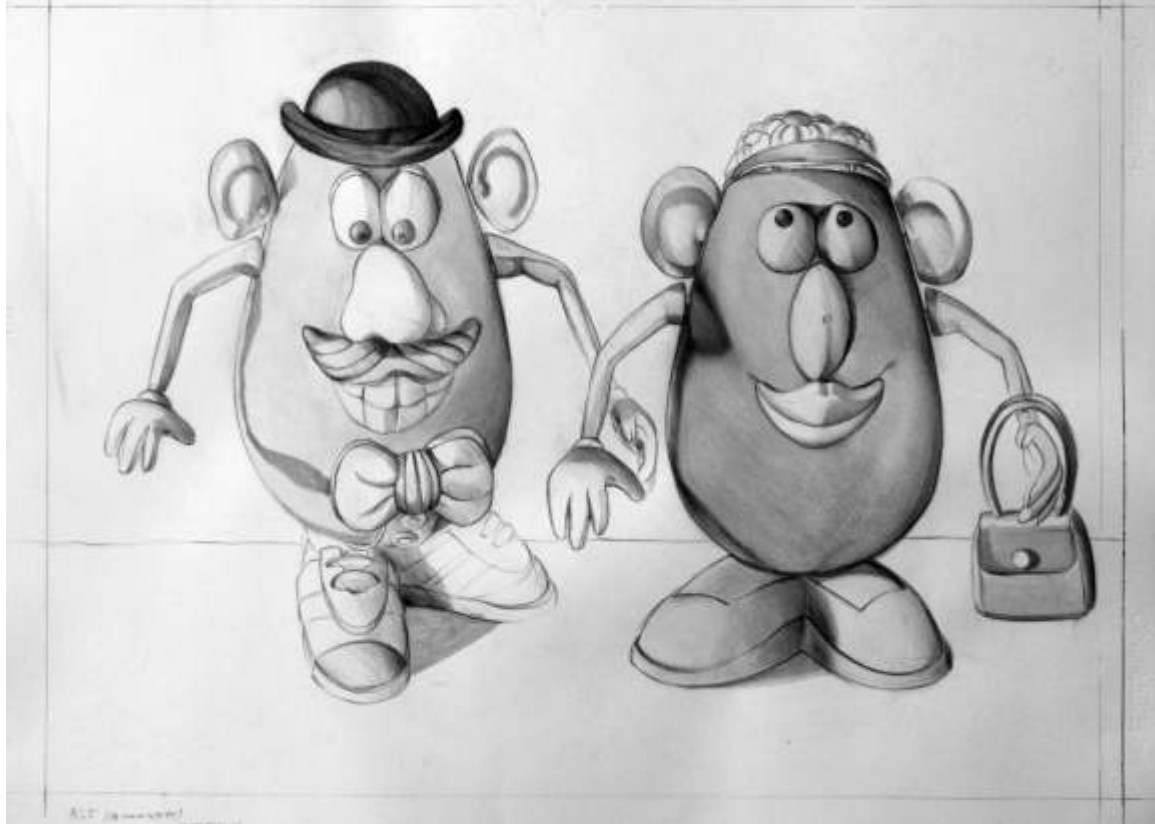
The Absurd and Grotesque - study #2
diptych, charcoal, graphite & gouache on paper, each 14.5 x 13.75 inches
2006



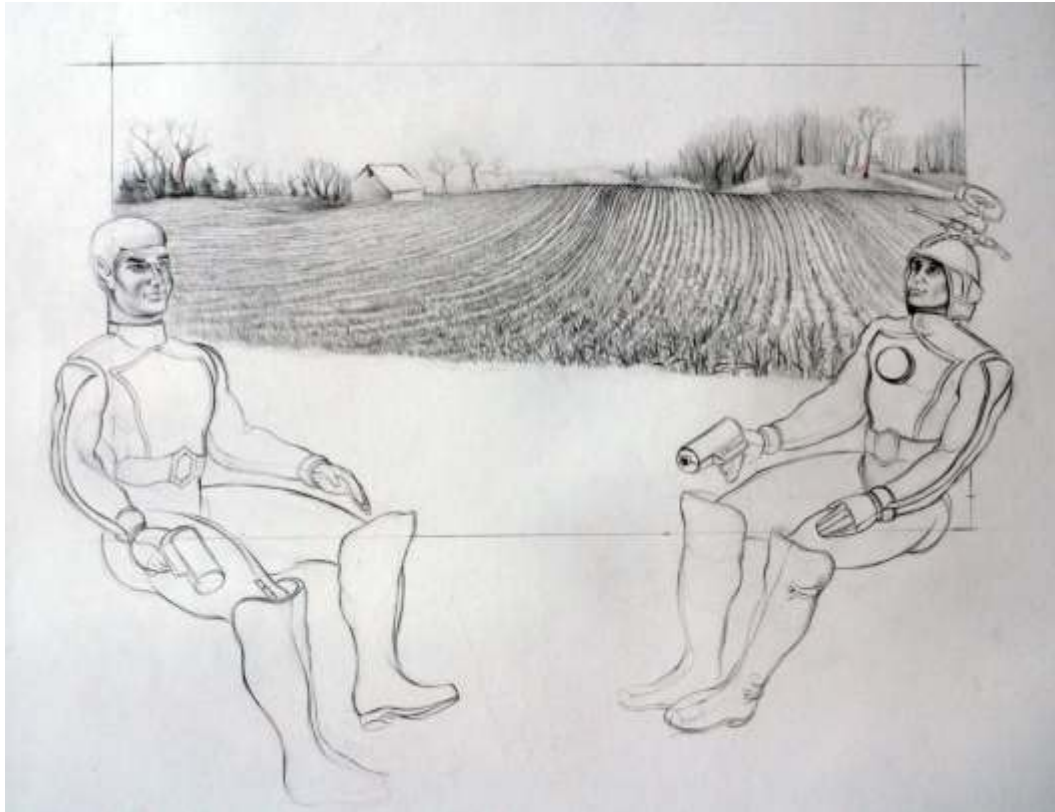
Rosemary's Baby - study
graphite, pastel & gouache on paper, each 24 x 36 inches
2004



Vanitas - study
graphite, pastel, color pencil & gouache on paper, each 24 x 24 inches
2004



Madame et Monsieur Tete-de-Pomme de Terre - study
graphite & gouache on paper, 19.75 x 27.5 inches
2005



In Search of the Highway of Forsaken Saints - study
graphite on paper, 24 x 30 inches
2006



A Duality of Subject Matter - study
diptych, graphite on paper, each 16 x 16 inches
2007



The Great Ultraman - study
charcoal and sanguine on paper, each 24 x 24 inches
2007

Jeffrey Thompson

b. 1961, Rome, NY

EDUCATION

- 1983 Bachelor of Fine Arts
Syracuse University Syracuse, New York
- 1982 Northeast London Polytechnic School of Art London, England

RECENT ONE & TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 Grandview College Des Moines, Iowa
- 2004 "Flora-metaphor" ArtHouse Gallery Des Moines, Iowa

RECENT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2007 Biennial Quad-State Juried Exhibition Quincy Art Center Quincy, Illinois
Axis Gallery Annual Juried Exhibition Axis Gallery Sacramento, California
AFAL National Juried Exhibition "Favorite Things" Forum Gallery, DeFoor Arts Center
Atlanta, Georgia
Biennial Juried Invitational Dubuque Museum of Art Dubuque, Iowa
Moberg Gallery New Artist exhibit Des Moines, Iowa
Headbones Gallery "Bona fide" Toronto, Canada
Studio group show Fitch Gallery Des Moines, Iowa
- 2006 "Old School, New School, No School" National Juried Art Exhibit and Invitational
The Carbon County Cultural Project Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania
The 56th Annual Quad-State exhibition Quincy Art Center Quincy, Illinois
"Adrift" Fitch Gallery Des Moines, Iowa
- 2005 "I love it, but it doesn't match my sofa" Iowa Genealogical Society Des Moines, Iowa
- 2004 Open studios at the Fitch studio building Des Moines, Iowa

- 2003 "Five abstract voices" ArtHouse gallery Des Moines, Iowa
Polk County Heritage Gallery Invitational Des Moines, Iowa
"Exploring the great outdoors" ArtHouse gallery Des Moines, Iowa
- 2002 Open studios at the BMS building Des Moines, Iowa
2AU gallery spring group show Des Moines, Iowa
- 2001 2AU gallery fall group show Des Moines, Iowa
Open studio at the BMS building Des Moines, Iowa
- 1999 2AU gallery fall group show Des Moines, Iowa
Open studios at the BMS building Des Moines, Iowa
2AU gallery spring group show Des Moines, Iowa
- 1998 Polk County Heritage Gallery Invitational Des Moines, Iowa
- 1997 Polk County Heritage Gallery "Greater Des Moines Exhibited"

INTERNET EXHIBITIONS

- 2006 neoimages.com
- 2006 Big Red & Shiny | Arts Journal Home page Boston, Massachusetts
- 2006 artistsspace.org | aonline.artistsspace.org

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2005 Juror, Periphery Undergraduate Art & Literary Journal, Drake University
- 2000 Juror, Valley Junction Arts Festival
- 1997 Best in Show, 4th Annual Greater Des Moines Exhibited, Dr. Lesley Wright, Curator, Cedar Rapids Museum, juror

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Moberg Gallery 2921 Ingersoll Ave. Des Moines, Iowa 50312

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