



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Thomas Ackermann

X-Country Selection

October 12 - November 16, 2006



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Artist Catalog, 'Thomas Ackermann - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers'
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With an uninhibited brashness of line and characterization, Ackermann interprets current events to present a cynical rendition of the powers-that-be as they conduct their pomp and ceremony from a convoluted platform rife with biblical, historical and sociological inferences. Witty and irreverent, Tom Ackermann's commentary is scathing and prophetic all in one fell messy swoop.

It might take time to understand the *exact* reference (for instance as to 'Cain and Able' in the double headed man) but the impression of fouled iconography is immediate. The energy has been changed from an image that is recognizable to a smirched version. The message inherent in the icon alters as Ackermann places it in a context that transforms the original message (eg: Pope equals holiness) into a message that is antithetical to the original (eg: Pope with 9/11 is an icon overlaid with a symbol that causes suspicion as to the sanctity). The recognizable is not always respectable as in *Abu Ghraib, The New World Order* where the malignant reigns from the outset and a deathly executioner, with an axe raised to chop, backs up the atrocities in the foreground. As the dense scribble of black charcoal further defiles the already black images that have been imprinted on our contemporary consciousness through the media, the shock is underscored by the title.

In *Able of War*, the soldier juxtaposed with the naked man (Tom in the buff) have a particularly poignant relationship. The brotherly biblical characters, conjoined as Able, never reconcile except through self destruction. The two headed Able grasps the hand of the vulnerable naked man and the clothed soldier's uniform denotes his rank and social status.

Ackerman's work could be read as unendingly negative were it not for the strength of execution of these pictures. There is a man behind the scenes who is ready to conquer the rats, dragons and power mongers. The force behind the gesture that pushes the medium - be it paint, charcoal, pen or latex rubber - around the pristine white page seems sufficiently strong to conquer these demonic trends. There is hope in the outcome of the scenarios as Tom Ackermann banishes the blackness by brandishing his artful sword.



"Icon #5
30"x 22"
charcoal on paper
2006



“Ratzlayer”
107” x 62”
charcoal on paper/canvas
2006



“9 Eleven”
acrylic on paper
22” x 13”
2006



“9 One One”
22” x 13”
acrylic on paper
2006



“Pope Overlay”
107” x 72”
charcoal on paper/canvas
2006



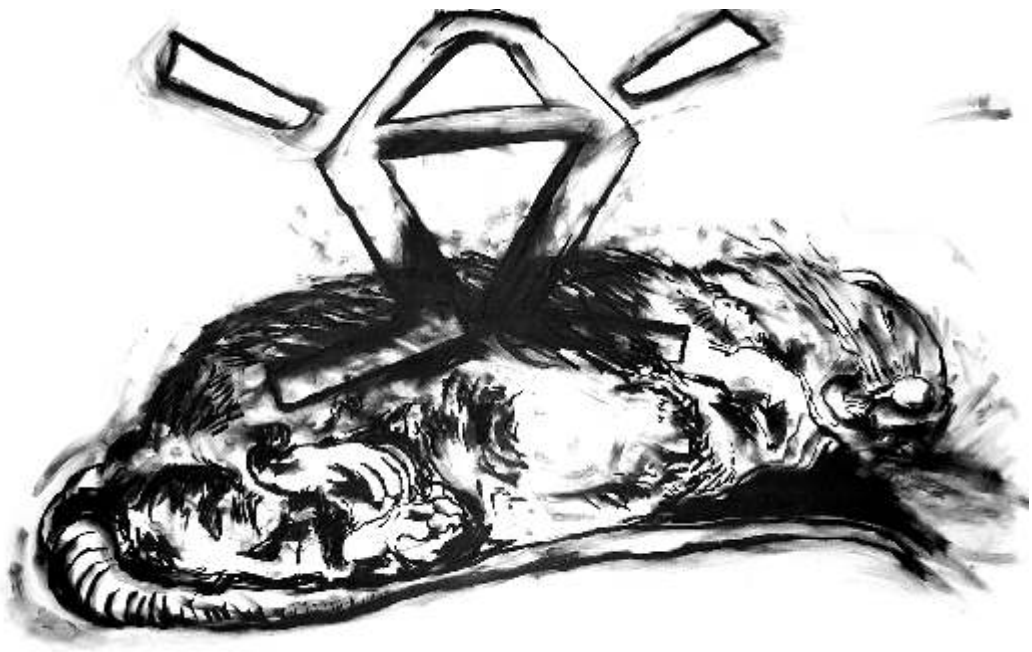
"Dragon Slayer"
107" x 98"
charcoal on paper/canvas
2006



"Abel of War"
80"x107"
charcoal on paper/canvas
2005



“Abel, Son of War”
40”x60”
charcoal on paper
2005



“Mascot”
40” x 60”
charcoal on paper
2005



“Abu Ghraib, The New World Order”
108” x 144”
charcoal on canvas
2006

Thomas Ackermann

NOTEWORTHY

- 2006 1st. Prize Gallery Lambton "Look Show"
1998 1st. Prize Gallery Lambton "Look Show"
1997 The Qabala Paintings Catalogue , Gallery Lambton and
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery
1993 Thomas Ackermann. Paintings, 1973 - 1993, Galery Onder De Toren, Belg
Catalogue published with text in English, French, German and Spanish.
1993 1st. Prize Painting Category, Biennial de la Pintura, Murcia, Spain
1992 1st. Prize Painting, Jornadas Nacionales, Macael Spain
1975 Ontario Arts Council grant

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Solo

- 2005 "The Disasters of War" Gallery Lambton, Sarnia Ont.
"Say No" The Energy Exchange, Sarnia, Ont.
2004 "Larger than Life" Gallery Bibianne, Toronto Ont.
2002 "Cards and Clones" The Arts Project, London, Ont.
2001 "Intense Flowers" Lovart, Forest
2000 "Sleeping With Jesus", St. Johns Anglican Church, Kettle Point Reserve
1998 "The Qabala Paintings", Kitchener/Waterloo Art Gallery, Kitchener,
"Recent Paintings" , Kleinman Fine Art, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
1997 "The Qabala Paintings", Gallery Lambton ,Sarnia ,Ontario
1996 Gallery in the Grove, Brights Grove, Ontario
1995 Gallery Sureste, Granada, Spain
"Buddhas" Gallery Gevaert, Zwevezele, Belgium
"Viennese Variations," Guild Hall, Sarnia
1994 "Revising the Sacred", Arts on King, Toronto, Ontario"
"Vibrations of a Higher Consciousness", Victoria Hall Gallery, Petrolia,
"Recent Paintings and Drawings" Kenneith Gallery, Sarnia, Ont.
1993 "Saints and Symbols", Kunstmuseum, Bad Hersfeld, Germany
"Searching the Enfolded Symmetry", Kenneith Gallery, Sarnia, Ontario
1992 "The Hunters" La Casa de la Cultura, Aguilas, Spain.
"20 Years of Painting" Galeri Onder de Toren, Veurne, Belgium.
"Pinturas y Banderas" El Centro Cultural de la Ciudad de Lorca, Spain.
"The Hunters" El Torre, Villaricos, Almeria, Spain
1982 "Recent Works" Goethe Institute.
1978 1981 Studio Gallery 9, Toronto.
1976 Gallery Goldframe, Toronto
1975 The Learning Resource Centre, Toronto

Group

- 2006 "Chemical" Sarnia Artist Collective, The Arts Project, London, Ont.
2005 "Erdegruppe" Group show with group of 7 painters, Gallery Lambton
2004 "Blue" Gallery Bibianne, Toronto
Erdegruppe Munclinger " Inaugural Show, Sarnia, Ontario
2003 The Toronto International Art Fair, Toronto, Ont.
Gallery Artists, Lovart, Forest, Ont.
1996-99 The "Look" Show, Gallery Lambton, Sarnia
1994 47th Annual Western Ontario Exhibition, Museum London, Ont.
1993 Biennal De La Pintura, Murcia, Spain
Exposicion Nacional de Pintura y Escultura, Valdepenas, Ciudad Real, Spain
1992 "Pintors Almariense" Ayuntamiento Garrucha, Almeria
IV Jornadas Nacionales de Escultura, Pintura y Diseno, Macael, Spain
1991 "Exposicion Complutense" Purchena, Almeria
1986 Magder Studio, Scarborough.
1986 Artists' Space, Hamilton.
1982 Studio Gallery 9, Toronto
1982 Palais de Congres, Montreal.
1978 B'nai B'rith, Toronto.
1976 Rural Centre, Mono Mills, Ontario.
1974 Exhibits in libraries and various student shows

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Kunstmuseum Stadt, Bad Hersfeld, Hessen, Germany
Casa de la Cultura, Aguilas, Almeria, Spain
El Tercio, Ayuntamiento Cuevas del Almanzora, Spain
Lambton Gallery, Sarnia, Ontario
El Centro Cultural de Lorca, Murcia, Spain
The Learning Resource Centre, Toronto
Escuela de Marmol, Macael, Spain
Casey House, Toronto

RICH FOG



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