



Seattle University
Fine Arts Department
Lee Center for the Arts
Hedreen Gallery

Media Contact: Carrie Scott
scottc@seattleu.edu
206.718.6481
Kill Date: October 20, 2007

EXHIBIT: Arts Illustrated

ARTISTS: Sonja Ahlers, Chris Buening & Jed Dunkerley

MEDIUM: Illustrative Drawing

OPENING: Thursday August 30th 5-8pm

RUN OF SHOW: August 31st – October 20th, 2007

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday 1:30-6:00pm

ADMISSION: open to the public, always free

LOCATION: Seattle University Lee Center for the Arts
901 12th Avenue (at 12th & Marion)

FOR MORE INFO CALL: 206.296.2244

Seattle - In 2002, the Museum of Modern Art's exhibition *Drawing Now: Eight Propositions* boldly positioned drawing as a more viable, stand-alone genre in contemporary art. No longer confined to second-class status behind painting and sculpture, drawing has become an increasingly popular medium.

The Seattle University Department of Fine Arts is pleased to present *Arts Illustrated*, an installation of drawings by Sonja Ahlers, Chris Buening, and Jed Dunkerley that exhibits the myriad and dynamic ways in which contemporary artists are using illustrative drawing today.

Ahlers work is both haunting and whimsical. Her intricate collages of original drawings, found scraps, and scribbled words are beautiful, but their message is grounded in larger issues. Part self-examination, part assessment on the state of feminism, Ahler's work tells a story about the fractured state of womanhood.

Similarly, Buening's intricate characters build subtle but shocking narratives about maleness. In *methhead* for example, a colorful and bright composition builds into the face of a man. The title of the piece leads us to believe the character is a drug addict. Similarly cheerful palettes serve as the means by which to render portraits Buening simply titles as *sadeyes*, or *bearfaced*. Through these bright but intricate representations the artist seems to be giving us a glimpse into the mental landscapes of the men he is trying to capture.

In Dunkerley's compositions, what look like the nightmares of a children's-book illustrator are also made manifest with lighthearted under tones: monsters appear in family parks, escalators lead to nowhere, and animated caricatures perform impossible but funny feats. Despite the fantastical elements in each, Dunkerley carefully captures the zeitgeist of our contemporary condition.

Ahlers, Buening and Dunkerley find inspiration outside the confines of fine art using the vernacular of mass culture, such as comics and fashion as well as architectural drafting and ornamental design. Though playful, each work conveys a poignant message; it is this aspect of *Arts Illustrated* that is most important. Through a profusion of works on paper, the show stands to prove just how affecting and relevant a medium drawing really is.

Artist Bios:

Sonja Ahlers is a self-taught visual artist and writer. She shows her visual work regularly in gallery spaces and has been published in numerous magazines and anthologies. She lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Christopher Buening received his MFA in Drawing/Illustration from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD). His work has exhibited extensively in Seattle, with shows at Gallery 110 and at the Seattle Art Museum Rental/Sales Gall

Jed Dunkerley is one part of the three-part trio PDL. Trained as a designer and illustrator, his work has appeared in numerous publications and is most recently responsible for illustrating *The Vital 5 Cookbook*.

###

Hedreen Gallery Mission:

The Hedreen Gallery at the Lee Center for the Arts is dedicated to the vibrancy of Seattle's artistic community. Our mission is to support the work of emerging artists and exhibit new work by established artists: local, national, international. We strive to catalyze artistic process and dialogue: to connect artists, audiences, and resources: and to engage the community in the arts.