



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper*

Billy Copley

Inaugural Drawer's Selection

December 14, 2005 - February 4, 2006



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# Billy Copley

## Inaugural Drawer's Selection

Relocation is not an option when confronting Billy Copley's work. You're *there* – in The City with all of the jive-ass clichés that go along with fast paced living. Billy lives within the milieu of siren city, NYC, with a studio in the art interested Williamsburg. He draws his imagery from popular sources and lays it down with savvy hip-ness.

When Clement Greenburg fussed about his need to separate the high from the low, he might have been able to avoid his angst had he known Billy's work. It would have met with Clement's high standards.

A specific example, *Girl on a Box*. She is in a modern classic pose – the sitting on a toilet pose and she is modeled in saccharine yellow, pink and turquoise against a nursery blue sky on an egg yolk floor that reminds us of the beach, it's that sunny. It's on a ground of red lines forming squares. In the foreground, if this was a logical space, there is a fractured object, a series of lines like a woodblock print stenciled in the same unyielding dense black as printer's ink. It is an intriguing set of lines, reminiscent of a mouth but there is something maleficent in the image. Billy's work is psychological and intellectually engaging. Subjectivity can't be avoided when confronted by a Copley. It inspires the invention of new adjectives.

Billy Copley puts together dissident elements from the world of mass-production-over done. He filters his arrangements through his nonconformity. He lays out a confident exclamation of the diversity of modernity. He overwhelms from a mere piece of paper with the strength of an immense Renaissance masterpiece.



*Girl in a Box, 2005*  
mixed media, collage on paper  
29 ¼ x 23 in



*Untitled Checkerboard, 2004*  
mixed media, collage on paper  
29 ¼ x 23 in



*Untitled 02D113, 2002  
mixed media, collage on paper  
28 1/8 x 22 3/4 in*



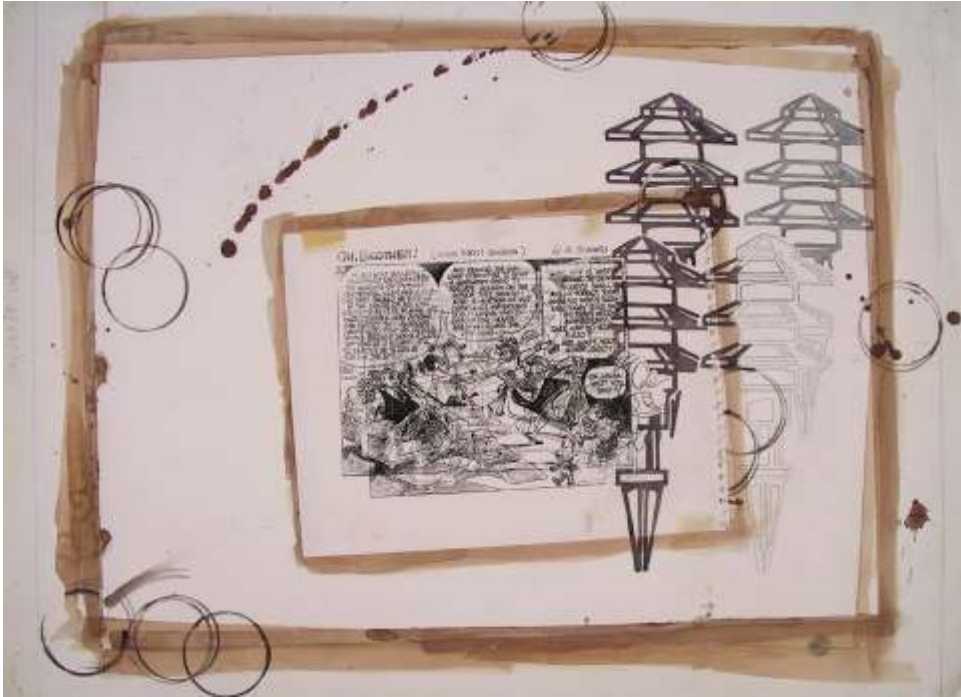
*Skeleton with Lights*, 2005  
acrylic, watercolor, pencil, ink  
20 x 25 ½ in







*Untitled Skeleton, 2005*  
collage on paper, watercolor, acrylic  
20 ¼ x 25 ½ in



*Untitled Home-front, 2005*  
ink, watercolor, pencil, collage  
20 x 27 ½ in



*Untitled Checkerboard, 2004*  
acrylic on rice paper  
17x 21 3/8 in



*Skeleton, Blue, 2004*  
*mixed media, collage on paper*  
*25 1/2 x 31 1/2 in*



*Skeleton, Black, 2004*  
mixed media, collage on paper  
29 ¼ x 23 in

## Billy Copley

### Education:

Chouinard Art School, Los Angeles, California, 1964-1965

### Professional Experience:

Assistant to James Metcalf (Sculptor), Paris, France 1965-1967

### Solo Exhibitions

*Richard Green Gallery*, Los Angeles, CA. Works on Paper July August 1992

*Peder Bonnier Gallery*, New York, NY. Drawings. October November 1993.

*Brian Gross Fine Art*, San Francisco, CA. Cereal Boxes, Works on Canvas.

November 1997.

### Selected Group Shows

*Guggenheim Museum*, New York City. Ten Young Artists, Theodoron Awards, September-November 1972.

*Phyllis Kind Gallery*, New York City. Splendidly not Simple Painting, January 1985

*Lorence Monk Gallery*, New York City. Drawings, February 1989

*Weatherspoon Art Gallery*, Greensboro, North Carolina. Art on Paper.

November December 1989

*Massimo Audiello Gallery*, New York, NY. The Last Laugh: Irony, Humor, Self Mockery and Derision, curated by Tricia Collins and Richard Milazzo. January 1990.

*The Drawing Center*, New York, NY. Selections 49. February-March 1990.

*Galerie Antoine Candau* (Espace Dieu), Paris, France. All Quiet on the Western Front. September December 1990.

*Mincher-Wilcoz Gallery*, San Francisco, CA. Telekinesis, Curated by Patrick Painter. January February 1991.

*Fay Gold Gallery*, Atlanta, GA. Outside America: Going into the '90's.

Curated by Tricia Collins and Richard Milazzo. March-April 1991.

*Claudio Bottello Gallery*, Turin, Italy. A New Low. Curated by Tricia Collins and Richard Milazzo. April May 1991.

## Collections

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY

The Hirschorn Museum, Washington, DC

The Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, NC

Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, NY

Holiday Inn Corporation, MD

Taco Bell Corporation, San Diego, CA

The Walt Disney Company, Inc., New York, NY



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