



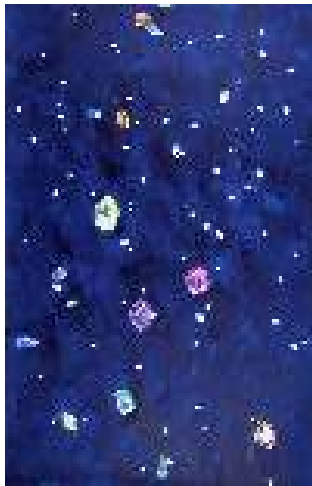
The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper

John Torreano

Situation, Positioning, Location

May 25 - June 24, 2006



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Artist Catalog, 'John Torreano - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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John Torreano

Situation, Positioning, Location

"Lucy in the sky with diamonds", "like a diamond in the sky", or "diamonds are a girl's best friend" are popular well worn phrases. Gems have powerful associations. In Torreano's paintings and sculptures there are three dimensional facsimiles of emeralds, sapphires, rubies, topazes and other precious gems whose names are exotic and conjure visions of wealth and grandeur. In the works on paper, Torreano's watercolor gems are unattached, floating free and where there is a dark blue background - constellations and their relation to the signs of the zodiac, birthstones and destiny is an obvious reference to clairvoyant research.

Torreano's search in the jewel box also has a scientific, engineering orientation. He relates to cuts and facets. He has chosen a subject that has an infinite number of variables to explore - an inner and outer definition of space, color, reflection, transparency and opaqueness. Monetary association aside, a gem is, with austere physical complexity, challenging subject matter. It is the ultimate still life. As an artist, Torreano takes his comparatively rough tools and with his experience, he undertakes the fashioning of light, the depiction of miraculous substance.

Torreano's gem obsession has not hypnotized his objectivity. He presents the gems with distance. He grants space to his renderings with a conscious displaying of his collection so that each jewel is presented on the paper like a painting on a wall in a white cube gallery. The floating gem next door doesn't interfere with the appreciation of the gem-at-hand. It is, however, somewhat compromised by the attraction of the neighboring jewel with its seductive allure providing fertile ground for new longings. The response is a fervent reminder of the Gollum theory; "my precious" was the term that the lop-eared creature gave to the object that had captured his desire. Torreano's gems are a gentle reminder of our desire to possess, a desire that can overtake reason and stew in the head with smoldering insistence. But as we ponder, the wonder of physical phenomenology quells with the intervention of fine art.



Star Field in Sagittarius, 2003
10x10' (4-5x5' panels)
wood balls, glass and acrylic gems, silicon, krylon and acrylic
paints on black gessoed plywood



DLM L 106, 2003
10x10' (4-5x5' panels)
wood balls, glass and acrylic gems, silicon, krylon and acrylic
paints on black gessoed plywood.



Gems
watercolor and pencil on paper
22.5x30 in
1996



Floating Gems
watercolor on paper
22.5x30 in
1996



Gems Floating
watercolor on paper
22.5x30 in
1996



Day Gems
watercolor on paper, two panels
79x26 in
1996



Night Gems
watercolor on paper, two panels
79x26 in
1996



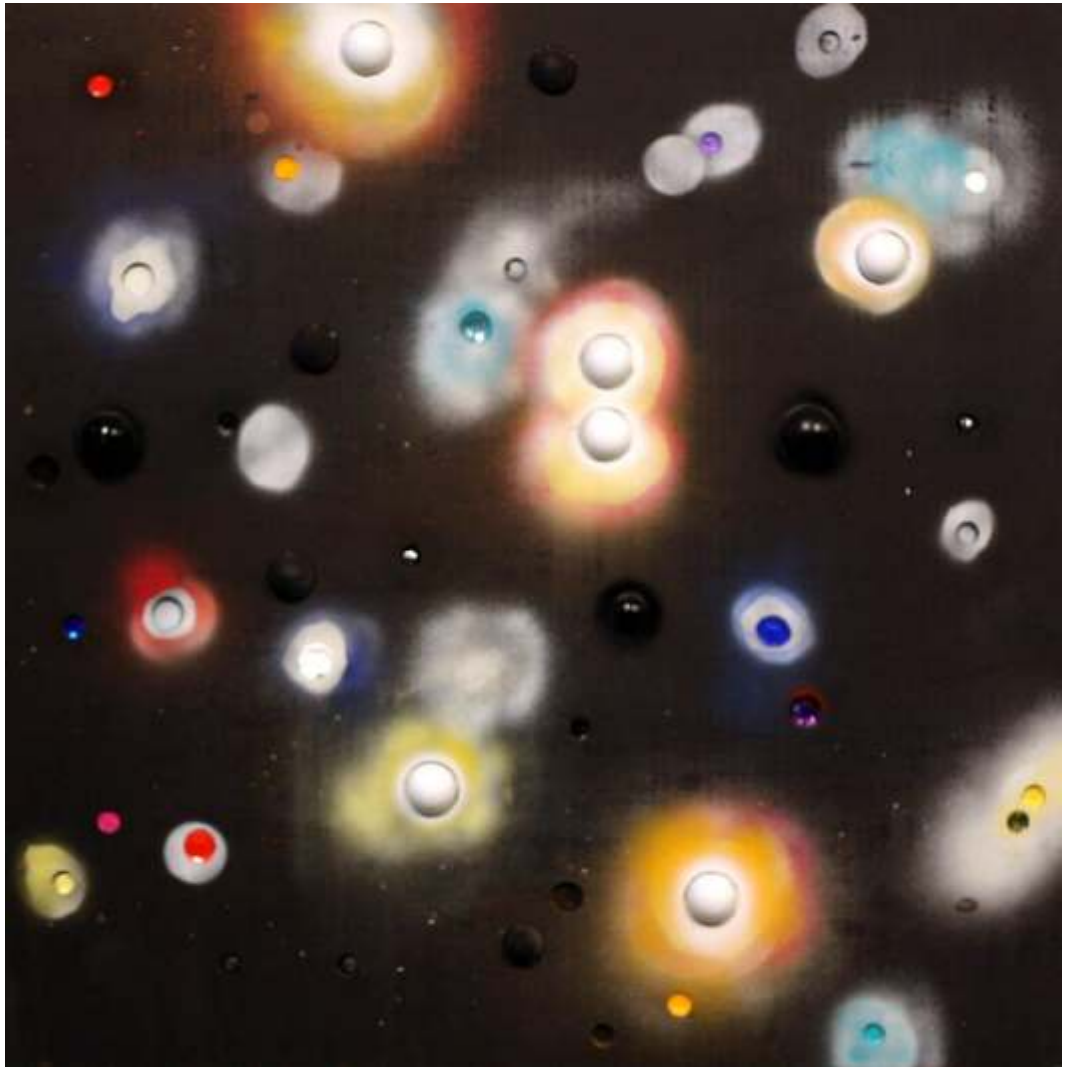
Highlights and Shades
watercolor on paper
22.5x30 in
1996



Emeralds
watercolor on paper
26x41 in
1996



Space Edge Painting 1, 2004
36x36"
wood balls, glass and acrylic gems, silicon, krylon and acrylic
paints on black gessoed plywood.



Space Edge Painting 2, 2004
36x36"
wood balls, glass and acrylic gems, silicon, krylon and acrylic
paints on black gessoed plywood.

JOHN TORREANO

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: One-person:

The Columns: Choreography of Perceptions, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown OH

John Torreano, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis IN

Every Gem is a Hand Held Star, Norton Gallery of Art, Palm Beach, FL

John Torreano: Natural Models and Material Illusions, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC

Diamond Vases, An Installation, Museum of Modern Art, New York NY

John Torreano: Gems, Stars and Perpetual Thinking, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids MI

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

A Very Liquid Heaven, Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs NY

All that Glitters, Islip Art Museum, Islip NY

Archipelago: an Intimate Immensity, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver CO

9/11, The Rochester Museum of Art, Rochester MN

Het Museum Voor Schoene Kunsten, Antwerp, Belgium

Donut Shop Four, Whatcomb Museum, Bellingham WA

Altered and Irrational: Selections from the Permanent Collection, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY

Painting Beyond Painting, The Corcoran Biennial Exhibition of Art, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC

Painting Outside Painting, The Corcoran Biennial Exhibition of Art, Washington, DC

Putt-Modernism, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown PA

Profiles II: On Paper, Arlington Museum of Art, Arlington TX

Glass, Material in the Service of Meaning, Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma WA

With the Grain: Contemporary Panel Painting, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY

American Pop Culture Today, La Foret Museum, Harajuku, Japan

Faux Arts: Surface Illusions and Simulated Material in Recent Art, La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla CA

Five Painters in New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY

American Art Since 1970, traveling exhibition organized by Whitney Museum of American Art, NY

Three Dimensional Painting, Contemporary Art Museum, Chicago IL

I-80, Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha NE
The Fiftieth Anniversary Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY, NY
Painting in Relief, Whitney Museum of American Art at Phillip Morris, NY, NY
Ten Artists, Artists Space, Neuberger Museum, Purchase NY
YoungAmerica: Painters of the Seventies, New Museum, New York, NY
(Traveling exhibit to Eastern Europe.)
American Art 1950 to Present, Whitney Museum of American Art, NY, NY
Private Myths: Unearthing of Contemporary Art, The Queens Museum,
Queens NY
Lyrical Abstraction, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield CT
Whitney Museum Annual Exhibition of American Art, New York NY

AWARDS

2002 The Nancy Graves Foundation Grant for Visual Artists
1997 *Painting in the Round*, School of Education
Research Challenge Fund, New York University, New York NY
1991 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship
1989 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Washington DC
1982 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Washington DC
1979 Creative Arts for Public Service Program, New York NY

DEALERS

Feature Inc, New York, NY
Littlejohn Contemporary, New York, New York
Jean Albano Gallery, Chicago, Ill
Susanne Hillbery Gallery, Birmingham, MI

WORK IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis IN
Contemporary Museum of Fine Arts, Houston TX; Honolulu
Museum of Contemporary Art, Honolulu HI
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis IN.
The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC
The Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills MI
The Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids MI
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis IN
Contemporary Museum of Fine Arts, Houston TX
La Foret Museum, Harajuku, Japan
Foundation Villa Rufolo, Amalfi, Italy
Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield CT
Dayton Art Institute, Dayton OH
Eli Broad Foundation, Los Angeles CA
Norton Gallery of Art, Palm Beach FL
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles CA
Honolulu Museum of Contemporary Art, Honolulu HI
Denver Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver CO
Herb and Dorothy Vogel Collection, New York NY
Frederick Weisman Collection, Los Angeles CA
Contemporary Museum of Fine Arts, Houston TX

COLLECTIONS

Ghost Gems, McCarren International Airport, Las Vegas NV
Chase Manhattan Bank, New York NY
Bank One, Minneapolis MN
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis IN
The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC
The Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills MI
The Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids MI
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY
La Foret Museum, Harajuku, Japan
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RICH FOG



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