



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper*

## **Jenny Laden**

Bona fide

May 17 - June 28, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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## **Jenny Laden**

*Julie Oakes*

She has found a way to kiss herself.

Peeling back the layers of narcissism, unlike Caravaggio's entranced boy imprisoned in stasis by the wonder of his own reflection, Jenny Laden has decided to become actively involved. The impish big-eyed girl glances from under a scathingly raised brow and throws out the challenge to admit her, despite her flaws and foibles barely covered by the circus scrim of a green face mask. Jenny has been staring herself down and always coming up the victor. There's attitude behind this spunky face.

The multi-dimensionality caused by the overlays of Mylar either yields an x-ray or background to the elfin women. The loose water color, dripping to the call of gravity plays up the sensation of an innocent pathos like tears or damp hair, an adolescent crisis rather than an emergency. The frail medium encompasses the gamut of a runaway condition where the adventure is well worth the minor discomforts.

Imagine the process. A committed confrontation with the self. It is the grit of philosophical inquiry, the turn around when the ego meets the ID. Her persistent visual meditation is like the Buddhist who becomes complete through the contemplation of her belly button as the energy is circulating outwards from the artist and then back from the artist into the piece. By exploring the concept of self reflection, a child of the artist is born, another generation created from her will and her need to procreate. Jenny contemplated Jenny and made for herself a friend - an invented likeness, a self portrait.

The outcome of this self-generation has recently become a new being, the big-eyed offspring of a pregnant and self centered process. This is more a fairy girl than real. It is more in tune with animation where the bodies in proportion to the heads are slighter as if they are swelling with magnificent ideas. Laden has left behind the wispy hair of her mirrored image and piled a lush, ornate, aristocratic hair-do on the expanded head of her newest creation. Yet there is still a resemblance as the bellies swell and a prenatal germination becomes physically apparent.



Big Orange Hair  
watercolor on mylar, 24 x 20 inches, 2006



Orange Hair  
watercolor on mylar, 24 x 20 inches, 2006



Don't Worry  
watercolor on mylar, 12 x 9 inches, 2006



Green Mud  
watercolor on mylar, 14 x 20 inches, 2006





She  
watercolor on mylar, 20 x 16 inches, 2006



|  
watercolor on mylar, 20 x 16 inches, 2006



Look Over  
watercolor on mylar, 14 x 9 inches, 2006



Pink Nipple  
watercolor on mylar, 14 x 9 inches, 2006



In The Red Kiss  
watercolor on mylar, 14 x 20 inches, 2006



Big Kiss  
enamel on mylar, 72 x 72 inches, 2005



Garden  
watercolor on mylar, 19 x 24 inches, 2006

# Jenny Laden

Born, 1970, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## Education

1998 New York University, MFA

1992 Barnard College, BA

## Solo Exhibitions

2006 Jenny Laden, ADA Gallery, Richmond, VA

2004 Inhabit, Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York

Then and Now, Painting by Jenny Laden, Stone Ridge Center, NY

Jenny Laden, Yigal Azrouel, New York

2003 Swoon, Jenny Laden, Cornell DeWitt Gallery, New York

Scope Art Fair, Cornell DeWitt Gallery, Florida

2002 Blink, Jenny Laden, Cornell DeWitt Gallery, New York

1999 Solo Exhibition, Ms. Foundation for Women, New York

1998 My Favorite Year, Cornell DeWitt Gallery, New York

Revolve, 80 Washington Square East Galleries, New York

Solo Exhibition, Ms. Foundation for Women, New York

## Selected Exhibitions

2007 Anatomical Attitudes, Heskin Contemporary, New York

Heroes, Bryce's Barbershop in Olympia, WA

Bona Fide, Headbones Gallery, Toronto, Canada

ArtsDesire, Contemporary Museum of St. Louis, MO

BAM Benefit, Brooklyn, NY

2006 Faculty Exhibition, 92nd Street Y, New York

Flight Plan, Morgan Lehman Gallery, NYC

Fantasy, Gallery 10G, New York

Scope Art Fair, Samson Projects and Gallery 10G

AAF , ADA Gallery, New York



- 2005 Fresh Direct, Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York  
Four, Aron packer Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2004 She's Come Undone, Artemis, Greenberg, Van Doren, New York  
Super Salon, Samson Projects, Boston, MA  
Fake Plastic Trees, Jeff Bailey gallery, New York  
Group Summer Show, ADA Gallery, Richmond, VA  
White Columns Benefit and Silent Auction, New York
- 2003 Women in Painting, Cornell DeWitt Gallery, New York  
Scope Art Fair, New York  
Artists Against The Occupation, Knitting Factory, New York  
White Columns Benefit and Silent Auction, New York
- 2002 Somewhat Small Works, Aron Packer Gallery, Chicago,  
Affordable Art Fair, Cornell DeWitt Gallery booth, New York  
Strong Women, Smart Women, Safe Women, House of Red, San Francisco  
Melt, The Art Explosion, San Francisco  
Jenny Laden & Jane Fox, Build Gallery, San Francisco  
Third Wave Foundation Benefit, New York
- 2001 Fresh, Hat Factory, San Francisco, CA  
Postcards from the Edge Benefit for Visual AIDS, Sara Meltzer, New York  
Group Summer, Cornell DeWitt Gallery, New York  
Art Fair, Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
WERISE/Third Wave benefit, A.I.R. Gallery, New York  
The Love Show, jacey's all-in-one at 18 orchard, New York  
Changes, curated by Paul Ha, Jeffrey's, New York  
Annual Benefit and Silent Auction, White Columns, New York  
Feminism; A Global Power, Artemisia Gallery, Chicago
- 2000 Enough Already; Jenny Laden/Christina Mazzalupo, Cornell DeWitt Gallery, NY  
Summer Exhibition, Cornell DeWitt Gallery, New York  
Annual Benefit and Silent Auction, White Columns, New York  
Benefit, Art in General, New York  
Sisyphus Emerging, LL Gallery, New York

- 1999 artforum berlin, De Chiara | Stewart, Berlin, Germany  
 Untold Stories, De Chiara | Stewart, New York  
 Outer Borough, White Columns, New York  
 Samantha Fisher/Jenny Laden, Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven, CT  
 Annual Benefit and Silent Auction, White Columns, New York
- 1998 Rhythm, Gesture and Metaphor, curated by Squeak Carnwath  
 Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven, CT,  
 Annual Benefit and Silent Auction, White Columns, New York
- 1997 Adorable, Rosenberg Gallery, New York  
 Emerging Artists, At Here Gallery, New York  
 Stillgone, curated by Bill Arning, E.S. Vandam, New York  
 Home Is Where the Heart Is, White Columns, New York  
 Annual Benefit and Silent Auction, White Columns, New York
- 1996 Day Without Art Memorial Exhibition, New York University, New York  
 Beyond the Water: Los Ojos del Guadiana, Badajoz, Spain  
 The Most Important Thing In The World, Art Exchange, New York
- 1995 Paintings, La Colombe, Philadelphia, PA
- 1994 Open Book 2, Barnard College, New York
- 1993 Jenny Laden/Ann Craven, Postcrypt Art Gallery, New York  
 Open Book, Barnard College, New York

### **Selected Publications**

- 2006 Heather Harvey, *Left Out*, Style Weekly
- 2004 Samuel Clover, *Art to Start With*, New York Post
- 2003 Sophie Maupoil, Jenny Laden: Beautiful, Personal Expression, Dealer DeLuxe Magazine,  
 John Reed, *Art Review*, [Artforum.com](http://Artforum.com)
- 2002 Lily Faust, *Gallery Review*, New York Art World Magazine  
*Art Picks*, Time Out New York
- 1998 William Zimmer, *Painter's Picks : Painting, Works On Paper*, New York Times  
 Hank Hoffman, *What's The Word?*, New Haven Advocate  
 Judy Birke, *Written Work Becomes a Visual Link in National Show*, New Haven Register

**Awards**

- 2005 Residency, Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Virginia
- 1998 Honorable Mention, Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven, CT
- 1999 Open Studios Press, New York Edition "New Paintings" Competition Winner

**Visiting Artist Lectures**

- 2006 Drew University
- 2001 Barnard College, Columbia University

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