



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Christopher Olson

For Font's Sake

April 5 - May 15, 2007

**I DON'T
GET IT**

Commentary by Julie Oakes

Christopher Olson

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Artist Catalog, 'Christopher Olson - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '
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Christopher Olson

Julie Oakes

Olson's witty repertoire acknowledges the feebler attempts to speak one's mind. With vestiges of cat hairs attached to the surfaces: his scribbling, cross-outs and erasures seem to affirm origins of insecurity taken from seamy perspectives. However, there is a hipper wit at work than just the meanderings of a disgruntled or misplaced person - it is the raw voice of the street savvy saint who lauds and applauds plebeian plight.

The cat hairs are stuck underneath the Letraset. Pressed onto the paper by lying the sheet of letters face down on the receptive surface and then rubbing the backside with a spoon, this method of lettering has become antiquated since the advent of the computer. The inept allusion is a set up. There is quite a lot of fuzz and hair stuck under the letters as if the cat has been encouraged to sit on the paper before Chris Olson begins to lay down his messages. There is too great an attention to detail to rule out intention.

These cheeky pieces have a rebellious nature. The German intrusion, art interception, a referential pseudo-intellectualism in the cracked and out-dated method is like a finger at the nose waving with defiance, jeering at our seriousness. "This took two minutes to do", Olson states. The paper talks back to itself "I don't get it." There is a vapid menace as if a crazy threat has slipped through the mail slot and fallen onto the living room floor. In one, there is a brutal situation being played out in street lingo from the wrong side of the tracks - "Fug dat I sez...", the thick goon talk of a bully, a prelude to violence.

The references are oblique enough to cause pause and question the necessity of the words existing. The reason that all of this should fall under the denomination of art is also considered. As the depravity of message and means is placed on a pristine page, then set up as 'art' and made precious by intent it works, on many levels. Visually, Chris Olson's work is interesting to look at, abundant in fine details, well laid out, formal, elegant and even gestural. The statements are relevant with a spooky prescience as if Olson is in on a knowledge that we are moving towards at a much slower pace.

Nena Hagen
Letraset, ballpoint, cat hair, 9 x 12 inches
2005

ICH HÄBE
ANGSTLOS
on vinyl

Name For My First Solo Show
Letraset, ballpoint, cat hair, 9 x 12 inches
2005

this

took 2

minutes

to do

(G)Rad
Letraset, ballpoint, cat hair, 9 x 12 inches
2005

Clever gesture, no soul.

Gesamtkunstwerk
Letraset, ballpoint, cat hair, 9 x 12 inches
2005

**gesamtkunstwerk in italics,
not quotation marks**

I Don't Get It
Letraset, ballpoint, cat hair, 9 x 12 inches
2005

**I DON'T
GET IT**

Fug Dat
Letraset, ballpoint, cat hair, 9 x 12 inches
2005

fug dati sez yo

whadyagonn do

yannow jus lie

onnagrounantaig

dat shit gawdam

sunz kbitchezsch

For Mike A.
Letraset, ballpoint, cat hair, 9 x 12 inches
2005

kitsilano

BURN ~~WINNIPES~~ TO THE FUCKING GROUND

Crump's With A K
Letraset, ballpoint, cat hair, 9 x 12 inches
2005

(numerous)

pictures of naked cavorting hipsters

waving cans of pilsner;

ironic
crumping &
polaroids.

Ed Ruscha
Letraset, ballpoint, cat hair, 9 x 12 inches
2005

ED

RUSCHA 

Christopher Olson

Education

2003-Present

Emily Carr Institute, Photography Major, Vancouver BC

1999

University of Manitoba, Faculty of Fine Arts, Foundation Year, Winnipeg MB

Exhibition

2007

We Are All Photographers, Musee d'Élysée, Lausanne, Switzerland. Two jpeg projections

2005

Incidental Portraiture, Radke/Stream Film studios, Vancouver BC, eight c-prints

Incidental Portraiture, Lugz Coffee Lounge, Vancouver BC, eight c-prints

2004

Get Off the Island, Co-curator, Concourse Gallery, Emily Carr Institute, Vancouver BC, xerographic text installation

The Home Show, Concourse Gallery, Emily Carr Institute, Vancouver BC, nine b&w prints.

2003

X3 Fundraiser, Aceartinc, Winnipeg MB, three photographs

Nail It Down, The Graffiti Gallery, Winnipeg MB, photographs and drawings

Member's Wall, Floating Gallery, Winnipeg MB, sixteen small photographs

2002

X3 Fundraiser, Aceartinc Winnipeg MB, three photographs

The Living Room Show, 290 Wellington Crescent, Winnipeg MB, short video in collaboration with Carla Mundwiler,

Member's Wall, Floating Gallery, Winnipeg MB, three c-prints

1999

Aceartinc, Winnipeg MB, "The Idling Car" bookwork, mail-out installation

1998

Member's Show, Floating Gallery, Winnipeg, two photographs.

Published Reviews

2007

Border Crossings magazine, Tichy review, (forthcoming)

Discorder magazine, Phill Niblock review, (forthcoming)

2006

Border Crossings magazine, Stephen Shore: The Autobiographical Landscape [#97]

2005

Border Crossings magazine: Damian Moppett: The Visible Work [#94], Jeremy Shaw: DMT [#93]

2004

Border Crossings magazine: Baja to Vancouver: The West Coast and Contemporary Art [#97], Ruth Beer: Home and Garden [#91], Kim Dawn: Approaching The Warm [#90]

Discorder magazine: various live reviews

2003

Border Crossings magazine, Hadley and Maxwell: The Decor Project [#88]

Grocery Store Essay reprinted in PaperWait, Aceartinc's annual publication

Stylus magazine: live concert and record reviews in print and on the web

2002

Border Crossings magazine, The Co-op Collective: Grocery Store [#84]

Published Visual Work

2007

Pyramid Power magazine, excerpts from • gPWNED!• h text series (upcoming)

Front Magazine, two photographs, March/April 2007

Woo Magazine, ECIAD student paper, • g18%CMYK• h, text work, Issue 1, January 2007

Front Magazine • gBoner-zilla• h, text work, Jan/Feb 2007

Images on Tinyvices.com, curated by Tim Barber.

2006

Woo magazine "Awesome" photograph and "Fifteen Regional (pro)positions" text work

Only magazine, photographs, March & April issues, Vancouver

Images on Tinyvices.com, curated by Tim Barber.

2005

Woo Magazine: photographs

Complete CD package design for Vancouver band Golden Phoenix

2004

Tart magazine: Cover image, Winnipeg MB

2003

Sleeve photographs for The Vagiants CD "Short + Hard" Winnipeg MB

2001

in/flux + Tart magazine: excerpts from "infra/-solar: a typographic visual poem" Vancouver/Winnipeg

Miscellany

2006

Standard Grey Editions, 3" CD-R label with Shane Krause

Wonk: debut 3" CD on SGE, for sale in Vancouver and Birdo Space in Tokyo, Japan.

Live no-input mixer, green tea and contact mic performance, Blim Vancouver BC

2005

"skibblbounce" audio track on ECIAD/Woo Magazine *Hybrid Frequencies* CD

2002-2003

Part time employee, Plug-In Institute of Contemporary Art Winnipeg MB

WWW. •fS

Myspace.com/wonkmusik

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