



# The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

*Contemporary Drawings and Works on Paper*

Robert Malinowski

Independent Curator's Selection

November 16 - December 9, 2006



Commentary by Monika Burman

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Artist Catalog, 'Robert Malinowski - Headbones Gallery, The Drawers '  
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Commentary by Monika Burman  
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Director: Richard Fogarty  
[www.headbonesgallery.com](http://www.headbonesgallery.com)

# Robert Malinowski by Monika Burman

Inde-Picks (Independent Curator's Selection)

## Off The Top Of My Head

When I was young I often wondered if I thought about something long enough, hard enough, if it would materialize. Eyes clenched shut, hands clasped, face turned up to the sky - this notion is still so wondrous.

That same lightness of sentiment is present in the work of Robert Malinowski. Robert's finely drawn work, like spun sugar on a page, constructs an addictive fiction around what thoughts might actually look like, and how they might behave when free to roam outside our heads. There are brainstorm, epiphanies, daydreams, pre-occupations, apprehensions, all translated into simple, beautiful images with wit and humour.

Robert draws his images from the experience of the relationships he has in his life. While this is an obvious statement, Robert's interpretation is exceptional. His drawings are refreshingly casual and open, with a minimal modern composition. These are not forethoughts for paintings; they provide all the temporal stimulation we seek with line, shape, black, white and grey.

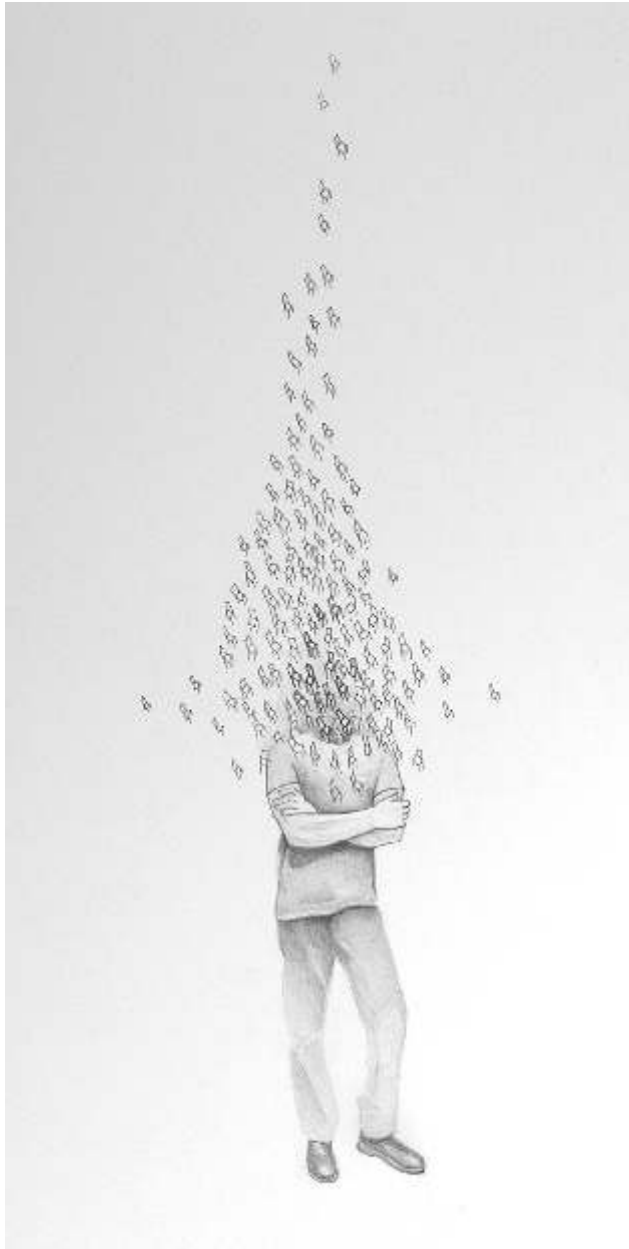
The particularly detailed rendering of the figures, with their evocative body language, are juxtaposed against the free-flowing symbols that obscure and abstract the head and face of the figure. Without a specific identity on any of the figures, as viewers, we're allowed to contextualize the image in our own experience, we're allowed to know that person as a familiar (without a) face.

The symbols that Robert uses in his drawings: hearts, flowers, arrows, numbers, letters and words, literalize thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Whether it's the awkward first impressions of two people sitting on a bench, the bold readiness to love, or the languid acceptance of time passing, seeing that communication expressed in universal iconography can at least, put a smile on your face, and at most, make you curious about what your thoughts could tell about who you are.

Would your mind spill out into a mess of tiny flowers? Would it explode in a cascade of words and letters? Or would you be overwhelmed by the slings and arrows of life? Robert Malinowski's drawings make me wonder about all of it, with my eyes open.



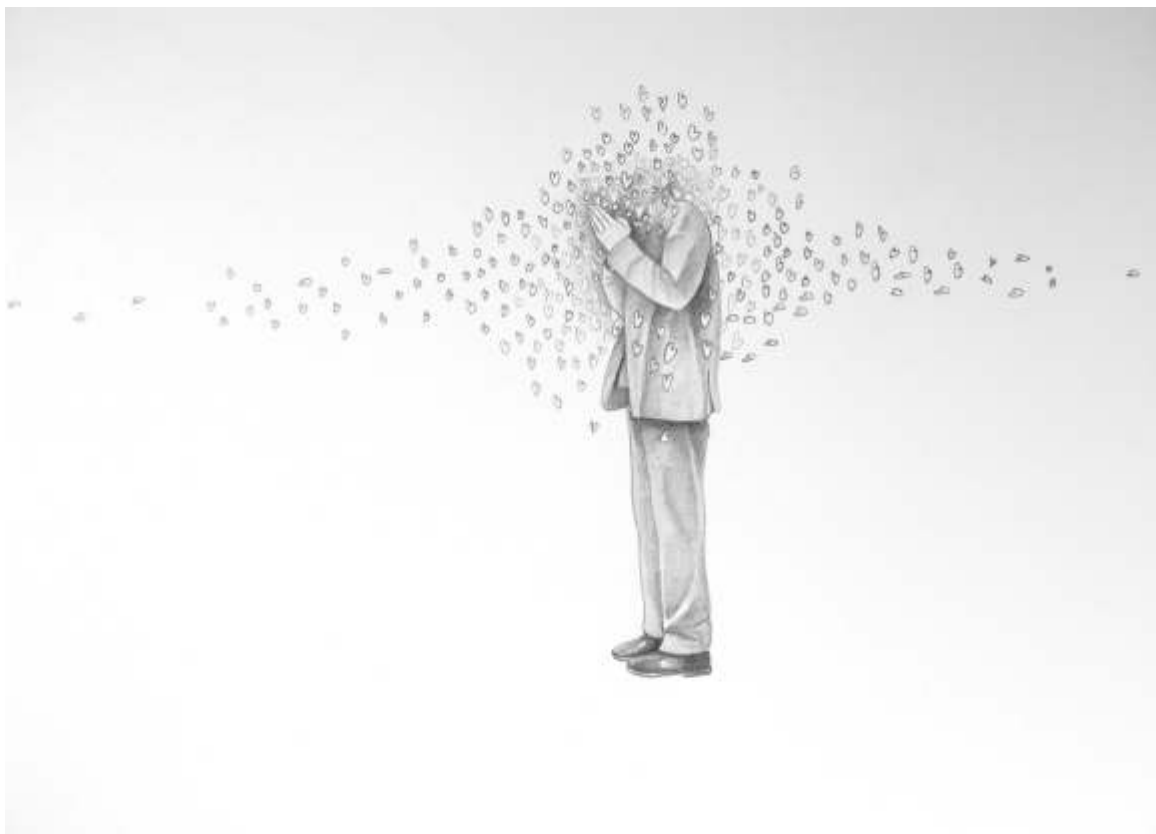
Seven-Thirty PM (part 1)  
pencil on paper (detail)  
30 x 11 in  
2006



Thinking of a Place to Sit  
pencil on paper (detail)  
30 x 11 in  
2006

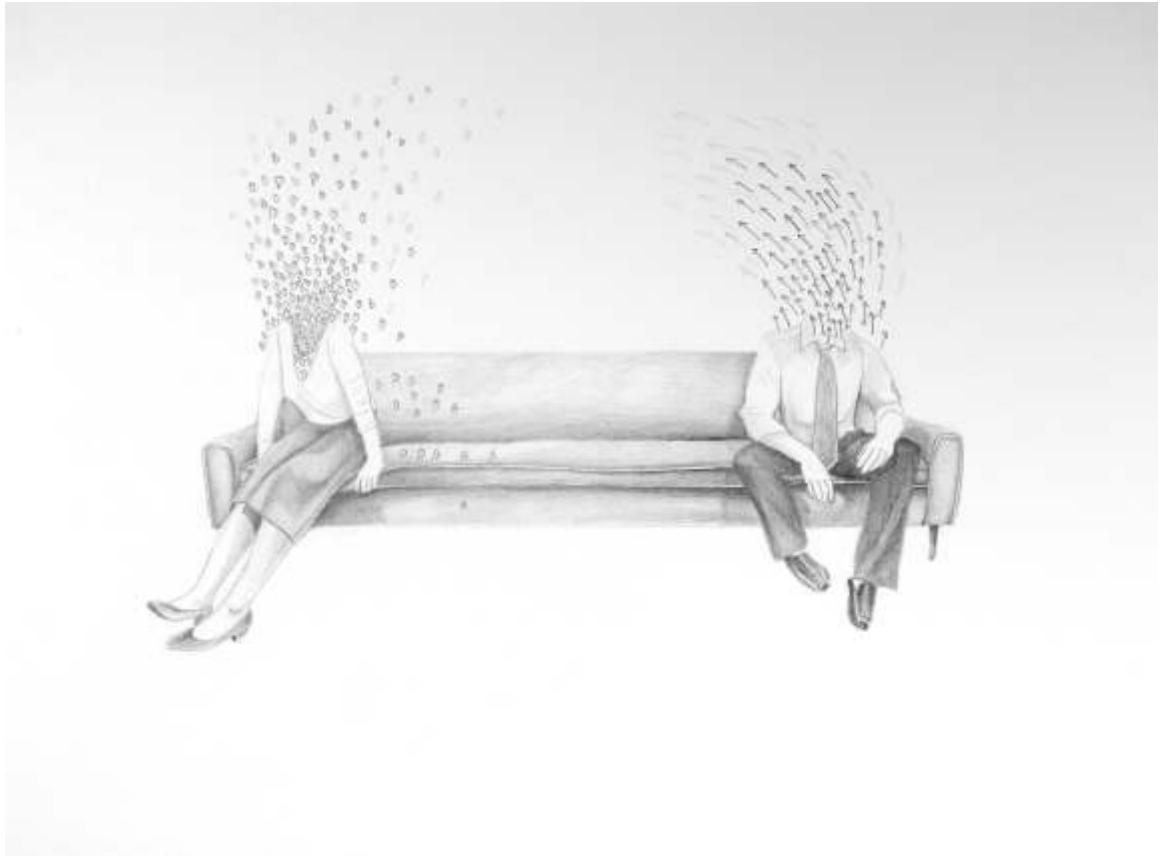


Considering (part 2)  
pencil on paper (detail)  
22 x 30 in  
2006

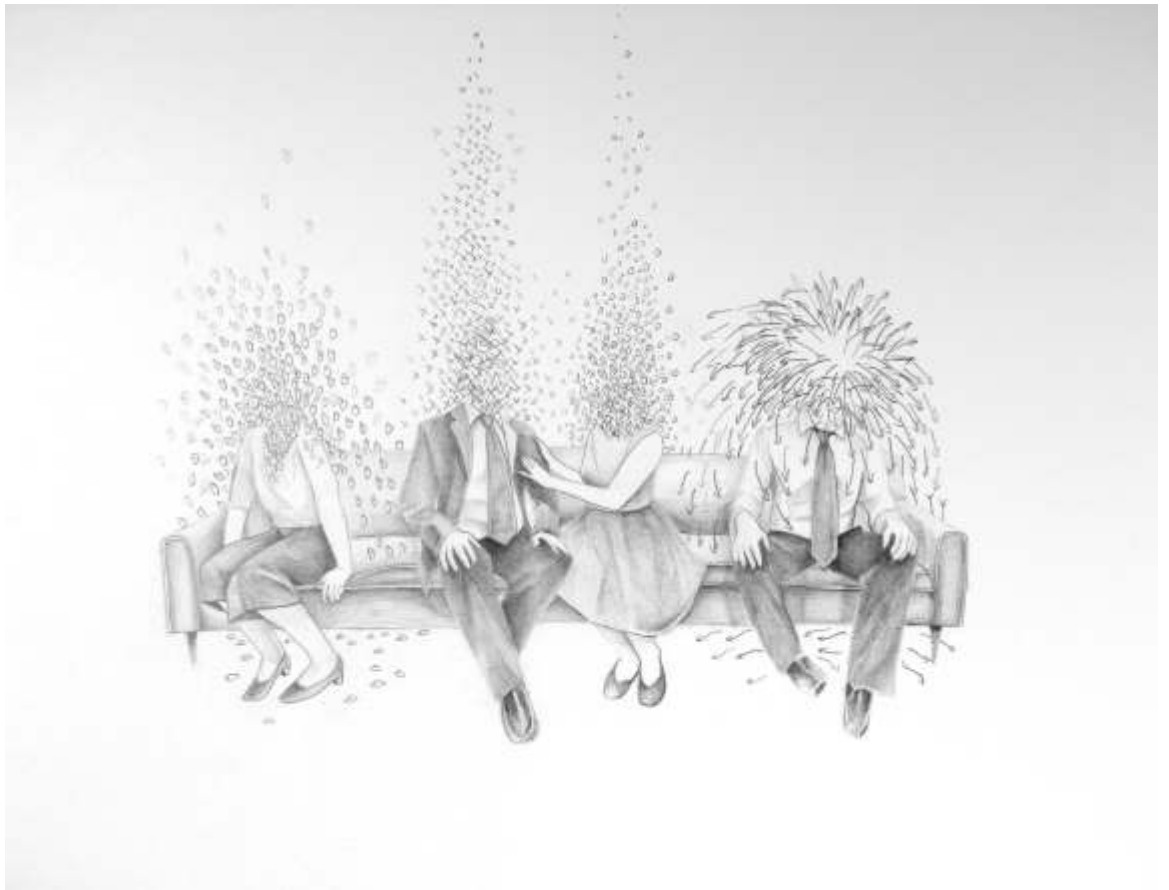


The Slings, The Arrows and Then the Hearts  
pencil on paper (detail)  
22 x 30 in  
2006

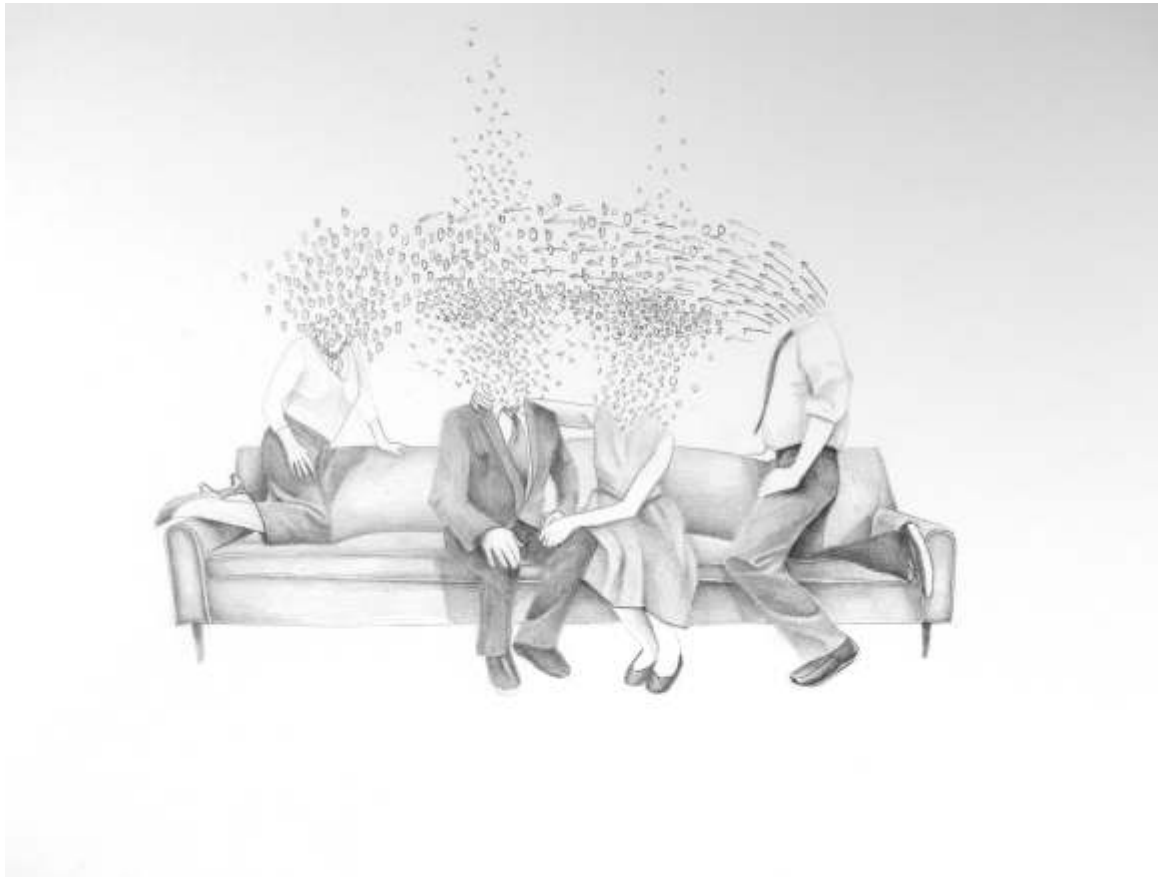




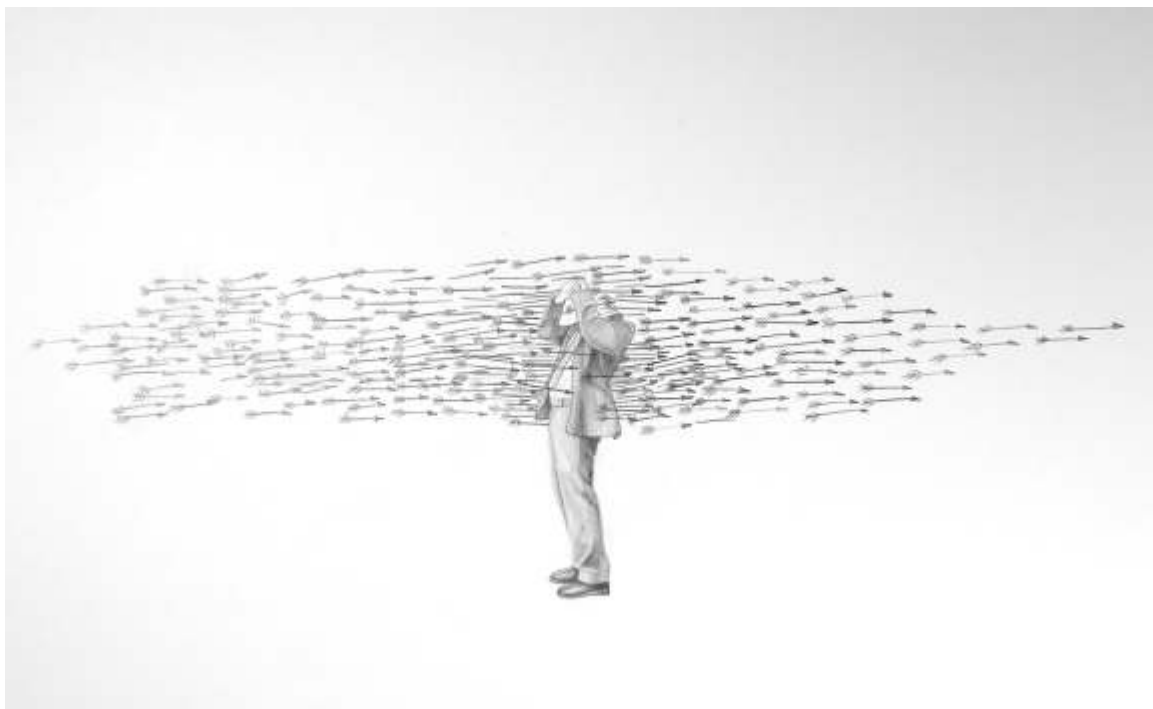
On a Days Allowance (part 1)  
pencil on paper (detail)  
22 x 30 in  
2006



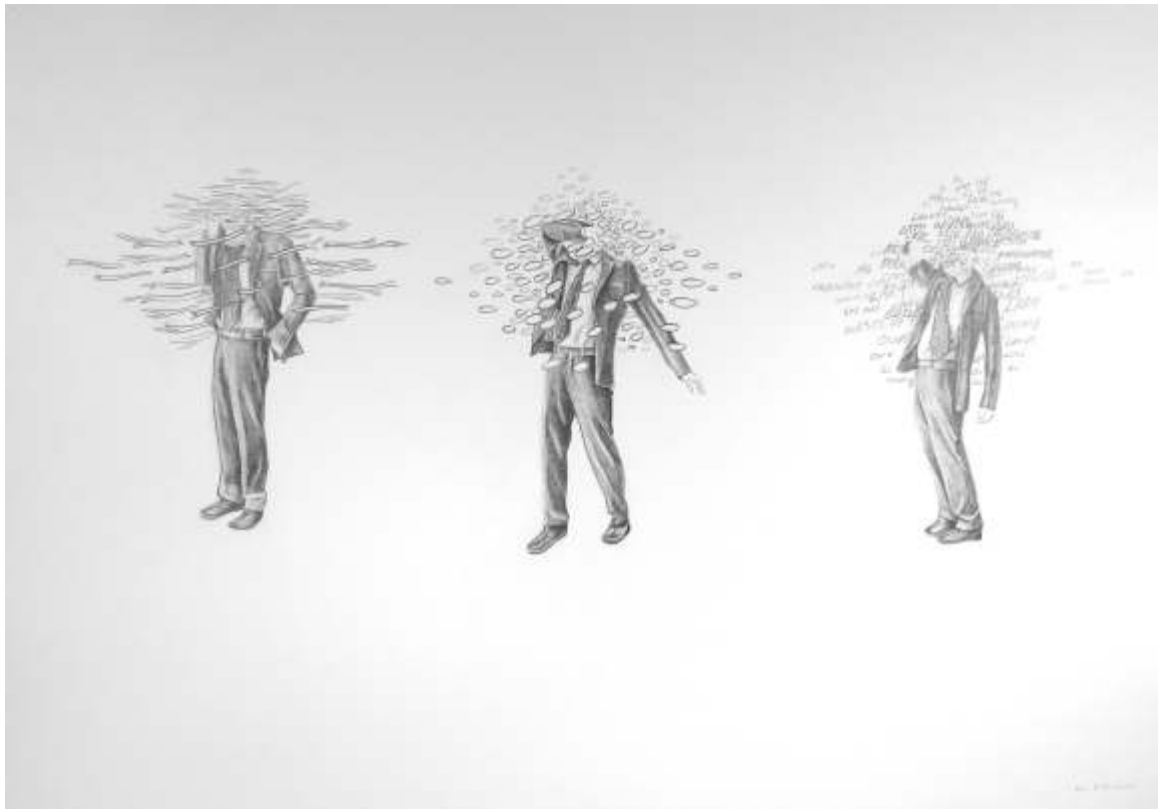
On a Days Allowance (part 2)  
pencil on paper (detail)  
22 x 30 in  
2006



On a Days Allowance (part 3)  
pencil on paper (detail)  
22 x 30 in  
2006



Some Days  
pencil on paper (detail)  
22 x 30 in  
2006



Sticks and Stones and Even Names  
pencil on paper (detail)  
22 x 30 in  
2006



Love Will Tear us Apart  
pencil on paper (detail)  
22 x 30 in  
2006

## Robert Malinowski

### E d u c a t i o n

- 1998 AOCAD, Ontario College of Art & Design  
1998/99 OCAD Florence Off Campus Program

### S o l o / D u o E x h i b i t i o n s

- 2006 little things in little rooms, C1 Artspace, Toronto  
2005 New Drawings (with Mathew Borrett), Swoon Gallery, Toronto  
2004 Contact 2004, Show Pony, AWOL Gallery, Toronto  
See Saw, Loplops, Sault St. Marie  
Solo Show, Sculptural Works, Kabat Wrobel, Toronto  
2002 Contact 2002, RoomMate, AWOL Gallery, Toronto

### A r t F a i r s

- 2006 Affordable Art Fair, NYC  
2005 Affordable Art Fair, NYC  
2004 Toronto International Art Fair, Toronto

### S e l e c t e d G r o u p E x h i b i t i o n s

- 2006 Inde-Picks, Headbones Gallery, Toronto  
Inaugural Exhibition, Apertura Gallery, Toronto  
Art and Paper VII, Galerie D'Art Jean-Claude Bergeron, Ottawa  
Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto  
Square Foot, A.W.O.L. Gallery, Toronto  
East/West, Sculpture Centre of Canada, Toronto  
File under F:Fact or Fiction?, Contact '06, Bending Spoons Gallery, Toronto  
Thought Mass, John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto  
2005 Wave, Swoon Gallery, Toronto  
The Picnic Project, Swoon Gallery, Toronto  
Seventh Annual Juried Exhibition, Sculpture Society, Toronto  
Square Foot, A.W.O.L. Gallery, Toronto  
Great Northern Arts Festival, Inuvik, NWT  
2004 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillips Sq.  
connect/disconnect, Commox Valley Art Gallery, Courtenay, BC  
Square Foot, A.W.O.L. Gallery, Toronto  
Mas-X, A.W.O.L. Gallery, Toronto  
2003 Home and Style ( Open Studio) A.W.O.L. Gallery and Studios  
I Never Promised You a Rose Garden, Gallery 1313, Toronto  
Beyond the Bedroom Window, Kabat Wrobel, Toronto  
Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillips Sq.  
Square Foot, A.W.O.L. Gallery, Toronto

- 2 0 0 2      Art Strikes Back, Toronto  
 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillips Sq.  
 Art For Arts Sake, Toronto  
 WhOLE, AWOL Gallery, Toronto
- 2 0 0 1      Contact 2001, \* fine print, AWOL Gallery, Toronto  
 Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Nathan Phillips Sq.  
 Standard, AWOL Gallery, Toronto
- 2 0 0 0      Blindness, AWOL Gallery, Toronto  
 Ecco Echo, Area Gallery, Toronto  
 Ecco Echo, OCAD Atrium Gallery Cafe, Toronto  
 Geographic Constellations, Banff Center, Alberta
- 1 9 9 9      by now . . . , AWOL Gallery, Toronto  
 Arte Firenze, Junction Arts Festival, Toronto  
 re:view, OCAD, Toronto  
 ecco echo, OCAD Florence Exhibition, Firenze, Italy
- 1 9 9 8      Basta-Stop It, OCAD Florence Exhibition, Firenze  
 Contact 1998, Still Unknown, Nora Vaughn, Toronto
- 1 9 9 6      No Escape, Gallery 1313, Toronto
- R e v i e w s    Eye Magazine, December 6, 2001, Review by R.M. Vaughn  
 Lola, Summer 2001, Blindness Shot Gun review by Egon Von Bark  
 Toronto Star, Saturday July 13 2002, Peter Goddard

#### P u b l i c a t i o n s

- Art and Paper VII, Exhibition Catalogue, Galerie D'Art Jean-Claude  
 Bergeron, 2006  
 connect/disconnect, Exhibition Catalogue, Commo Valley Art Gallery, 2004

#### R e s i d e n c i e s

- Gil-society in Akureyri Iceland for May 2007

#### M e m b e r s h i p s / A f f i l i a t i o n s

- 2 0 0 5 - 0 6    Sculptors Society of Canada



RICH FOG



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