Tyler Bright Hilton
Minmei Madelynne Pryor Went Into the Dryer
The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Work’n It
January 10 - February 14, 2008

Tyler Bright Hilton

Commentary by Julie Oakes
Artist Catalog, Tyler Bright Hilton
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Commentary by Julie Oakes
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Tyler Bright Hilton

Work’n It

Between a traditional series of etchings that illustrate a story—Chagall's *Aesop's Fables* or Goya's *The Disasters of War* for example—and the peculiar, privately coded, personal narratives that artists feel compelled to have brought forward; falls the shadow. It is within this shadowy realm that Tyler Hilton fabricates his tale of dubious reference and peppery wit. The characters move from page to page enacting their destinies, fraught with the muddle of emotions, sexual innuendo and perplexity that riddles the young. Overlaid on a clean technological background, the characters magically transport from situation to dilemma. The main character, a lanky, randy young woman with a mixed ethnicity, sports a photogenic hairstyle reminiscent of cinematic fame or Japanese animation. Neither youth nor age oriented, his contemporary myth updates yore as within the twenty visual frames; he forms a tale of his own telling; one that relates to earlier told stories (most notably Alice in Wonderland) but rests in an orientation brought into line with the twenty first century. Hilton's 'Alice' is whimsical yet hardy. She is feminine yet more adolescent than womanly. She enters 'wonderland' through a clothes dryer in search of a sock and once there explores her sexuality with the appetite of a depraved libertine.

The skill evident in the etchings is part and parcel of the surrender to the journey that we are willing to take alongside of the heroine and the unique and often bizarre perspectives as the corner is rounded from page to page is well worth the attention spent. Each piece is compositionally able to stand unattended by the precedent and aftermath of the scene depicted. The lines are expressive. The darks are deliciously rich. Falling within the dramatic layout of film noire or gothic illustrations, this ambitious project measures up to the daunting task of holding interest over time.

In the past, Hilton has exhibited a fascination with morbid and theatrical subject matter with his drawings of cats that are far from fluffy pussies. He continues to wrench emotive content as he brings the subject closer to relativity (nearly-believable characters, all close to Brighton in age and style). The work is not an easy read, for the enigmatic aura overshadows logic both sequential and referential, but like a flight above the clouds the air is rarefied and the realm visited well worth the ticket. Hilton is at the beginning of what promises to be an interesting trip—a career to be followed with interest.

Julie Oakes
Minmei Madelynne Pryor  
Went Into the Dryer  

All images Zinc or Copper intaglio,  
12x18” printed in an edition of 5 on Arches 88 paper, sized 15x22”  
Also printed in an edition of five as a hand bound book that collects the 20 images  
and includes 3 pages of screenprinted text, silver embossed title text and a portfolio.  
Drawn and Printed 2005-2007
Chapter 1:
In which Minmei distractedly reads how many scoops of detergent will be required for her load while mourning the absence of her missing sock, lost to the mysteries of the dryer.

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 2:

In which the answer to the mystery of the missing sock simply provokes deeper questions.

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 3:  
*In which Minmei espies a floating pair of* 
*T'ang Dynasty slippers.*

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, sandpaper, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 4:
In which Minmei regards a set of steps not at all unlike those sometimes seen in Mario for Nintendo 64.

(Copper Plate, hardground, etching, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 5:
In which Marlon proves to be less scary than Minmei had at first believed him to be, and allows himself to be scooped.

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 6:

In which Minmei is lead
to Zebo, the terrifying guardian ghost dog
with whom Marlon seems to be on disquietingly intimate terms.

(Copper Plate, hardground, etching, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 7:
In which Minmei sits down to a sumptuous meal whose makers remain unseen.

(Copper Plate, hardground, etching, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 8:
In which Minmei has three orgasms, each exceeding the other in both duration and quality.

(Copper Plate, hardground, etching, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 9:
In which a giddy Minmei skips down a hall to collect her best friend Caitlynne, and Marlon, disgusted by this turn of events, pilots home a Veritech VF 1J that he and Minmei had been doing aerial acrobatics in throughout the long morning.

(Copper Plate, hardground, softground, etching, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 10:
In which our Heroine recalls
the previous' nights delights.

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 11:

In which Caitlynne is disturbed by Minmei’s indifferent zeal.

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 12:

*In which Caitlynne is witness to a scene curious in the extreme.*

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 13:
In which Caitlynne squeals uncontrollably and at great length
When Zebo makes it known that he does not at all approve of her presence.

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 14:
*In which Caitlynne has a most unpleasant time, and ruins dinner for everybody.*

(Copper Plate, hardground, etching, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 15:
In which The Vivian Girls remove Minmei’s misused slippers.

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 16:
*In which Caitlynne and Minmei do not agree, and Caitlynne dissolves.*

(Copper Plate, hardground, etching, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 17:
In which Marlon performs a rather surprising service.

(Copper Plate, hardground, etching, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 18:
In which Minmei understands something crucial about The Whole Thing.

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 19:

In which Minmei is relaxed.

(Copper Plate, hardground, etching, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Chapter 20:
C'est Fini.

(Zinc Plate, hardground, etching, spitbiting, burin, aquatint, drypoint.)
Tyler Bright Hilton

**solo exhibitions**
- 2008 Slide Show XPACE Toronto
- 2007 dead cats dead rats Unit 309 Toronto
- 2007 Minmei Madelynne Pryor Katherine Mulherin’s Sideshow Toronto
- 2006 New Work Gallerie Bertossini Toronto

**recent selected juried group exhibitions**
- 2008 Work’n It Headbones gallery Toronto
- 2007 Drawing Glenhyrst Art Gallery Brantford
- 2007 Aqua Art Miami Katherine Mulherin Miami
- 2007 Do It at the Gladstone The Gladstone Hotel Toronto
- 2007 Insomnia Redhead Gallery Toronto
- 2007 A Climate for Change Propeller Gallery Toronto
- 2007 Square Foot AWOL Gallery Toronto
- 2007 Queen West Art Crawl Artscape Toronto
- 2007 Poems, Curses & Dry Spells Eastern Front Gallery Toronto
- 2007 Response Propeller Gallery Toronto
- 2007 Landscape Praxis Gallery Toronto
- 2007 Get it Together! Bizzybee Gallery Toronto
- 2006 Cycles Perfecta Katharine Mulherin’s Sideshow Toronto
- 2006 Art Ease Crappy Conversation Loop Gallery Toronto

**press**
- 8-Dec-07 The Globe and Mail
  Minmei Madelynne Pryor Went into the Dryer at XPACE Gallery
- 29-Nov-07 The Expositor
  Drawing on Diversity By Steve Menhinick

**awards**
- 2003 The Horhager-VonBaeyer Roommate of the Month Award First Prize
- 2005 Drawing and Painting Scholarship OCAD Honourable Mention
- 2005 Academic Excellence Award OCAD
- 2006 Joubin-Selig Traveling Scholarship OCAD
- 2006 Academic Excellence Award OCAD
- 2007 Mudge Massey Graduate Studies Award Honourable Mention
- 2007 Printmaking OCAD Honourable Mention
- 2007 Glenhyrst Drawing Exhibition Honourable Mention
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Education Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Master of Arts, (Begins January) Chelsea College of Art, London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors, Ontario College of Art &amp; Design, Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Graduate, Florence Off-Campus Program, Ontario College of Art and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Part-Time Anatomical Studies, University of Toronto, Grant's Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Diploma, Studio M Animation Inc. (Presently known as “Max the Mutt Animation”)</td>
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Minmei Madelynne Pryor Went into the Dryer

*Minmei Madelynne Pryor Went into the Dryer* is an obliquely narrative series of twenty sequential intaglio prints detailing a coming-of-age story based on the familiar fantasy premise of finding the spectacular within the mundane.

Mixing a wide range of influences, from T'ang Dynasty sculpture, 1980's anime and *Alice in Wonderland* straight on through to the works of trend-setting photographer and sexual provocateur Terry Richardson. The series aims to create a highly idiosyncratic yet recognizable world that serves as a theater for the title character to learn to keep her secrets to herself by exploring the relationships between identity construction, fantasy and privacy.

Tyler Bright Hilton, 2007