

Srdjan



Segan

SRDJAN SEGAN

HEADBONES GALLERY

Srdjan Segan

Size brings monumental themes into play and yet is rarely executed in paper, a fragile medium. That the subject is a human image, stretched, hanging from the hands and visiting animist sites as it makes the long transition of space, attests to the grand notion of humanity and also to the brief trajectory of each life through time.

All that the drawings embody is related to the artist's history through a traceable path. Srdjan Segan is a Serbian from Croatia, a minority ethnicity who had made up a lesser percentage of the population for centuries. He grew up in a country where the citizens were often pitted against each other. At nineteen he was able to receive a refugee status but it was not until he was twenty-one that he began the process that would allow him to immigrate to Canada; he was twenty-three when he finally arrived. He had changed, while in Croatia, from his studies in medicine to an interest in Fine Arts.

The innards exposed in the drawings, twisted and mixed-up, bring up the medical orientation of the body as corpus; as physical structure and animal substance. The drawing as a whole, magnified as it is, becomes the 'main' or 'central mass' of a thing. Then, there is the connotation of a corpse or a carcass, splayed and hanging to cure. Segan uses charcoal and coffee to stain and draw on the paper - simple substances on a humble ground. In doing so, he grants the body a more 'full bodied' rendition making the concept of monumentality a virtual object in the art piece.

A room filled with these draping hanging presences, punctuated by his equally immutable bronzes, brings to mind ancient temples. These are icons that can refer to religious imagery as awesome as the Easter Island sculptures and the massive Buddhas of the Orient. They are warriors - guardians of sacred spaces, warning against marauders. They speak of man's dignity. They are a testament to his status, standing upright above all of the other species. They are not singularly consumed, for they incorporate images of the lesser realms and hence show the relationship and interdependency of the creatures of the earth. There is also an alien intonation as if the long paper men/women are from another galaxy, silent witnessing beings from outer-space.

We walk down the length of the bodies or squint to peer up at the faces from our picayune vantage point. We are connected to the giants through the large drawings and the human potential is made greater.

Commentary by Julie Oakes





education

2000-04

Sculpture/Installation and Drawing/Painting at Ontario College of Art and Design

2001-02

Florence Off-Campus Studies at Ontario College of Art and Design

1995-99

Drawing / Painting at Student Town Culture Centre, Belgrade

1997-99

Sculpture at Unistitucional Sumatovacka, Belgrade

solo exhibitions

2007

Solo show at "Headbones Gallery," Toronto, ON

Solo show at "Detroit Industrial Project," Detroit, MI

2006

Outdoor drawing installation at Diego Salazar Studios, Queens, New York

2005

"Architecture of Entropy" at John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto, sponsored by OSA

Outdoor drawing installation at Diego Salazar Studios, part of "Open Studio Long Island", Queens, New York

"Drawings and Sculptures: Srdjan Segan" at Raccoon Space, Long Island City, New York

"Drawings and Sculptures" at Kabat Wrobel Gallery, Toronto

1998

Solo exhibition at Gallery Dom Kulture Studentski Grad, Belgrade

juried exhibitions

2007

Drawing 2007: 8th Annual Juried Exhibition at John B. Aird Gallery

"Canadian Artist Without Borders" Varley Art Gallery Markham

2006

Las Peripicias de la Linea at Escuela Nacional de Danza Folklorica Mexico City

Alternative Fashion Week Toronto

Zemunski Salon Lucka Kapetanija Zemun Serbia

Work on Paper Neutral Ground Regina

Dezorg Galerija Zvono Belgrade Serbia

Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition

Drawing 2006: 7th Annual Juried Exhibition at John B. Aird Gallery

2005

Triple X: Visual Arts Ontario 30th Anniversary Exhibition Series, exhibition to travel to 5 venues in Ontario

7th Annual Emerging Sculptors Exhibition at Sculptors Society of Canada, Toronto

"Through the Eyes of the Artist" at The Assembly Hall, Etobicoke

"Metamorphosis: 131st Annual Juried Exhibition" at John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto

2004

"Home and Style Studio Tour" at Designers Walk, Toronto

Sculptors Society of Canada: 9th Annual Graduating Student Exhibition at John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto

89th OCAD Annual Student Exhibition at Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto

Drawing 2004: 5th Annual Juried Exhibition at John B. Aird Gallery

"Bronze Now: A Voyage in Self Expression" at OCAD Gallery, Toronto

selected group exhibitions

2009

"NEOPRIEST" with Hedbones Gallery, Toronto

2008

"Face Forward: Contemporary Portraiture" Varley Art Gallery Markham

"Three man show" Thames Art Gallery, Chatham, ON

2007

"Nuit Blanche", Toronto

"Toronto International art fair" with Hedbones Gallery, Toronto

"Ethnic Convergence" at Hedbones Gallery, Toronto

2006

"Mistletoe Magic" at John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto

Cycles Perfecta Katherin Mulherin Contemporary Art Project Toronto

"Results of the Head Hunt" at Headbones Gallery, Toronto

"Narrative?" at Headbones Gallery, Toronto

2005

"5 Artists Choice" at Praxis Gallery, Toronto

2004

"Mistletoe Magic" at John B. Aird Gallery, Toronto

2003

"Summer Heat" at Praxis Gallery, Toronto

"Sweet and Sour" at Gallery 1313, Toronto

2002

"Vignettes" at Gypsy X, Toronto

"Miniaturas" at Acadia Gallery, Toronto

"Unrelated Exposures" at XO, Florence, Italy

1996-99

Annual Exhibition at Student Town Gallery, Belgrade

grants and awards

2008

Exhibition Grant, Ontario Arts Council

2007

First Prize, Drawing 2007: 8th Annual Juried Exhibition, John B. Aird Gallery

2006

Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation Grant

Production Grant, emerging level Ontario Arts Council

2005

Production Grant, emerging level Toronto Arts Council

Artcast Inc. Award, 7 Annual Emerging Sculptors Exhibition, The Sculpture Society of Canada

Honorable Mention, Wyndham Award, Ontario Society of Artist

Exhibition Grant, Ontario Arts Council

Exhibition Grant, Ontario Society of Artists

2004

Art Cast Award, Sculptors Society of Canada

Anne Adler Kagan Award, Ontario College of Art and Design

Louis Odette Sculpture Scholarship, Ontario College of Art and Design

First Prize, Drawing 2004: 5th Annual Juried Exhibition, John B. Aird Gallery

Rich Fog Micro Publishing



Toronto 2008

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