

Presseanfragen bitte an Rebecca Lilliecrona
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Schwarzenberg e.V.



JOHN CASEY

John Casey is obsessed with fictitious human morphology, which he explores in his ink drawings and small sculptures. At first glance, his works seem to portray a menagerie of deformed creatures. A collective analysis reveals this array of oddball creations to be a series of psychological studies — self-portraits of the artist's inner psyche in all of its multifaceted



incarnations. Some sad, some horrific, and some whimsical, these characters evoke responses from laughter and sympathy to disgust and discomfort. While one might call Casey's work the exorcising of inner demons, his creations inspire more empathy than they do loathing. By depicting the grotesque as pitiable, John Casey illuminates the darkest corners of the mind, seeking redemption for all of us.

"My creatures are called monsters by some, but I often feel that the connotations associated with "monster" don't always apply to these little guys unless one can add descriptors like "vulnerable" and "fragile" to the definition of monster. Maybe I have issue with the monster moniker because I see my critters as self-portraits. Nick Capasso, director of the DeCordova Museum, once referred to my work as 'little exorcisms' and I like that description. The idea that I expel my inner demons in the form of drawn, painted, or sculpted critters appeals to me."

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Bio

Born on Friday the 13th in Salem, Massachusetts, John Casey has been inventing creatures as soon as he was able to hold a crayon. Drawings that his mother saved from when he was only three years old reveal an obsession with the figure. The figures in these drawings show not only the distorted perceptions of a child, but a fascination with skulls, teeth, spirographic eyes, and invented body parts. This obsession with strange creatures continued throughout his youth. "Monster models, war dioramas, dinosaurs, and horror movies on the T.V. [this included "Creature Double Feature" on Saturday afternoons, of course] occupied much of my time."

John graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston in 1988 with a BFA in Painting. Several years ago he relocated to Oakland, California with his lovely wife Mary.



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Resume

EDUCATION

1988 B.F.A. (Honors), Massachusetts College of Art

SELECTED SOLO/TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2008 Picket Fencing, Swarm Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2008 New Works, TAG Art Gallery, Nashville, TN
- 2007 Strange Fruit: Bad Seeds, Receiver Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 Metamorphosis Chamber, FPAC Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2007 New Works, TAG Art Gallery, Nashville, TN
- 2006 Headache, Boontling Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2006 Along Came a Spider, 33 Grand, Oakland, Oakland, CA
- 2005 Creature Double Feature, National Product, San Francisco, CA
- 2005 Unusual Suspects, Cricket Engine Gallery, Oakland, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2007 The Diane and Sandy Besser Collection, de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 Immigrant Punk, Black Maria Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2007 Banai/Godzilla, SFMOMA Artists Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 Free Parking, OKOK Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2007 Graphic: New Bay Area Drawing, di Rosa Preserve, Napa, CA
- 2006 I Think We Better Split Up, Receiver, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 Boontling Allstars, Boontling Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2006 666, Blankspace Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2001 Terrors and Wonders: Monsters in Contemporary Art, DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA

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PRESS

Chuck Banaszewski, Spragraphic Interview, December '07
Pam Grady, Tradition, Anime Mesh in U.S. Art, July, '07
Ert O'hara, Headache, Juxtapoz, April, '06
David Downs, Headache, East Bay Express, April, '06
John Trippe, Along Came a Spider, San Francisco Bay Guardian,
February, '06
Matt Petty, Along Came a Spider, San Francisco Chronicle, February,
'06
Gallery Crawl, Along Came a Spider, KQED Podcast, February, '06
Kathleen Brennan, Creature Double Feature, Fecal Face Dot Com,
October, '05
Alan Bamberger, Creature Double Feature, Art Business, October, '05
Sharon Mizota, Toys Take No Prisoners, SF Weekly, September, '05
Alan Bamberger, Toys Take No Prisoners, Art Business, September, '05
Theo Konrad Auer, The Eastsider, Fecal Face Dot Com, April, '05
Stephanie Kalem, Pick of the Week, East Bay Express, March, '05
Melissa Lane, Art Scene, East Bay Express, March, '05
Alan Bamberger, Unusual Suspects, Art Business, March, '05

COLLECTIONS

de Young Museum
di Rosa Preserve

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