

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Jeffrey Beauchamp
Immigration is the Sincerest Form of Flattery
June 5 - July 3, 2008

Dolby Chadwick Gallery is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition "Immigration is the Sincerest Form of Flattery" by Jeffrey Beauchamp. Following his last two shows of abstracted landscapes, Beauchamp leaps off the edge with an exciting new direction.

Beauchamp writes, "This new body of work is the jolly culmination of many years of dissembling and self-denial. I've wanted to paint the figure forever but couldn't solve the problem of fitting people and things into my increasingly hectic landscapes without a nagging feeling of contrivance. More troubling, as soon as undeniably narrative elements appeared (yup, that's clearly a naked lady now and a Playmobile pirate toy) I crossed over from the Happy Color World of Maybe into the Land of Loaded Meanings.

Compared to pure landscape or abstraction this new level of visual commitment packs a terrific aesthetic punch. Unfortunately, any of these absurd combinations of hand-picked characters and props comes with enough baggage to be as easily misunderstood as not. Fortunately, I'm reassured when I realize that my creative heroes, the best comedians, songwriters, and painters, have all embraced the notion of potentially embarrassing themselves with the potency of self-revelation. It's the price of using the real high-octane stuff we carry deep, the payoff being the generation of something new that can not only break through the mediocre drone of the market bazaar, but hopefully encourage an empathetic interchange between minds, maybe even get a laugh. I love John Currin's paintings, partly because he is so willing to create images that are beautifully strange and, when he started, so incredibly un-hip. But it's that courage to publicize his own dreams and weirdness that disarms and inspires a more forgiving, humanist take on his art. He reminds us that it takes guts to just be yourself, but it is worth it.

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A lot of the dissatisfaction that drove my work into this direction was the feeling that it had never openly referred to the many things that I cared about and was therefore not as meaningful and great as it could be. The series of soft-focus, Richter-esque faces I did last year were a catalyst and a sort of missing link for the leap into this present look. I figured if I could do something as difficult as faces then what am I waiting for? Now I'm an image farmer, or rather hunter-gatherer, and the entire visual universe is just a vast savannah of raw material for these mash-up paintings. The real and imaginary characters of my life have immigrated into the painted world and they are welcome to act out any number of plays in these permanent mazes of possibility, for my glory or humiliation. I'm so ready.

Beauchamp was born in New Jersey in 1964. He received his BFA from San Francisco Art Institute in 1989. His work has been positively reviewed in both Artweek and Art in America. This will be his third solo show at the Dolby Chadwick Gallery.