

COME ON: Desire Under The Female Gaze



Blow (2001) by J. Balcaen, Balloons, dimensions variable (approx. 8' x 12' x 3').

23 Aug.– 27 Oct. 2007 : Tue–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat 12–6pm
ARTISTS : Jo-Anne Balcaen, Juliet Jacobson,
Rachel Rampleman : **CURATOR** : Astria Suparak

SCREENING : 26 Aug. 8pm @ Spark Art Space
Daughters of Joy! + *Lickety Split* zine launch

SCREENING : 18 Oct. 8pm @ Watson Theater
Emotional Realism

CONCERT : 24 Aug. 7:30pm @ New York State Fair
Poison + other metal bands

ARTIST TALKS : 20 Sept. @ Warehouse Community Classroom
2pm: Jacobson, 3pm: Rampleman.

SWEET NOTHINGS RECEPTION + GUIDED TOUR : 20 Sept. 5-8pm
@ The Warehouse Gallery in Downtown Syracuse, New York

Female artists explicitly express desire, fantasy, disappointment, pleasure

The Warehouse Gallery of Syracuse University launches a bold new exhibition, **COME ON: Desire Under The Female Gaze**, which focuses on the psychological, social, cultural and political dimensions of desire, subjectivity and pleasure.

COME ON presents an array of ideas, imagery and experiences on the topic of sexuality from the perspective of women in their 20s through mid 30s. The artists in this exhibition employ diverse media, including large-scale drawing, video installation, text work and ephemeral sculpture. **COME ON** reveals what is not represented in popular culture and provides a counterbalance to the ubiquitous imagery of sexualized female bodies created for mainstream heterosexual male sensibilities.

- In *Poison*, by Brooklyn artist **Rachel Rampleman**, rock star virility is deflated through real-life testimonial. In a video viewable from a set of stadium bleachers, the artist's sister Sarah describes her lifelong idolatry of infamous frontman Bret Michaels. The fantasy and anticipation leading up to a weekend rendezvous are recounted in uproarious detail, as well as her ensuing disappointment in the desired object's sexual skills. The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* writes, "Sarah is brilliant" and *ArtNet* calls the video "priceless". Rampleman's report punctures the myth of the adoring, anonymous female fan and the prowess of the famous musician.

Rampleman has exhibited and screened at Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens, Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Cynthia Broan Gallery and NYU Cantor Film Center in Manhattan, and ArtWorks Time Warner Cable Gallery in Cincinnati.

- Montreal-based **Jo-Anne Balcaen** creates oblique narratives with dictionary definitions through intriguing juxtapositions. The word combinations chosen question the cultural baggage assigned to language used to express emotions, uncovering the role of language in the construction of gender. In addition to the text works in **COME ON**, Balcaen will install a suggestive minimalist sculpture created out of balloons, which

THE WAREHOUSE GALLERY

international contemporary art

points to the commercialization of courtship, the inflated and insupportable expectations of happiness, and the temporality of feelings.

Balcaen has exhibited at SAW Gallery in Ottawa, Katharine Mulherin in Toronto, in Montreal at Parisian Laundry, Joyce Yahouda, articule, and the Ellen Art Gallery at Concordia University, as well as unconventional sites like Salvation Army, an abandoned hospital, a library and on billboards.

- Brooklyn-based **Juliet Jacobson's** large-scale drawings evoke centuries-old Mannerist painting through the use of ornate details, contorted compositions and irrational space. These exquisite illustrations of intertwined male lovers are informed by the critical theories of feminist and queer studies. With a symbol set deriving from the histories of art, religion, and literature, Jacobson's finely rendered works are meditations upon generation and creativity, fragility, intimacy, love, mutuality, morality, identity, alienation and universality.

Jacobson has been included in exhibitions curated by Kiki Smith and Valerie Hammond in New York and Rupert Goldsworthy in London. Her work was featured in the last issue of K48 Magazine.

Join the artists and curator **Astria Suparak** for an afternoon of artist talks culminating in a tour and reception with refreshments on **Thursday, Sept. 20**, at The Warehouse Gallery.

COME ON EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENTS:

- **ARTIST TALKS** : 20 Sept. 2pm: Jacobson, 3pm: Rampleman. Sponsored by the Departments of Transmedia and Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Syracuse University, @ Warehouse Community Classroom, 350 W. Fayette St. (between Franklin + West Streets), thewarehousegallery.org
- **SWEET NOTHINGS RECEPTION + GUIDED TOUR** : 20 Sept. 5–8pm, during Th3 Syracuse Arts Night, with vegan treats provided by Roji Tea Lounge and local beer from Middle Ages Brewery. 6pm tour with exhibition curator and artists. Free Connective Corridor transportation. @ The Warehouse Gallery, 350 W. Fayette St., th3syracuse.com, connectivecorridor.syr.edu
- **SCREENING** : 26 Aug. 8–9:30pm, *Daughters of Joy!* Experimental video and audio about sex, and the American launch of *Lickety Split* sex-positive zine. Co-presented with Syracuse Experimental Film & Media Workshop, @ Spark Art Space, 1005 E. Fayette St. (at S. Crouse Ave.), sparkartspace.com, syrfilmworks.blogspot.com
- **SCREENING** : 18 Oct. 8pm, *Emotional Realism*. Videos that pose questions about the rhetoric of honesty and the production of empathy in the viewer. Curated by Emily Vey Duke and Cooper Battersby with work by Miriam Bäckström, LaToya Frazier, and more. @ Watson Theater, 310 Waverly Ave. at Comstock Ave.
- **CONCERT** : 24 Aug. 7:30pm. The subject of Rampleman's video performs on stage. Poison, Ratt, and other metal bands @ New York State Fair, Mohegan Sun Grandstand, nysfair.org/fair

BASIC INFORMATION FOR EXHIBITION:

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| Exhibition Name: | COME ON: Desire Under The Female Gaze |
| Exhibition Dates and Times: | 23 Aug.–27 Oct. 2007; Tue.–Fri. 10am–6pm, Sat. 12–6pm |
| Admission Cost: | Free |
| Notice: | This exhibition contains work generally intended for mature audiences |
| Scheduling Interviews, Tours: | Elaine Quick, Press Contact: press@thewarehousegallery.org , 315.443.6450 |
| Artists' Names, Cities: | Jo-Anne Balcaen (Montreal, QC); Juliet Jacobson (Brooklyn, NY); Rachel Rampleman (Brooklyn, NY) |
| Curator: | Astria Suparak, Director, The Warehouse Gallery |
| About The Warehouse Gallery: | The Warehouse Gallery is a Syracuse University-affiliated public art gallery exhibiting and commissioning work by contemporary international artists. The gallery's mission is to engage the community in a dialogue regarding the role the arts can play in illuminating the critical issues of our times. |

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