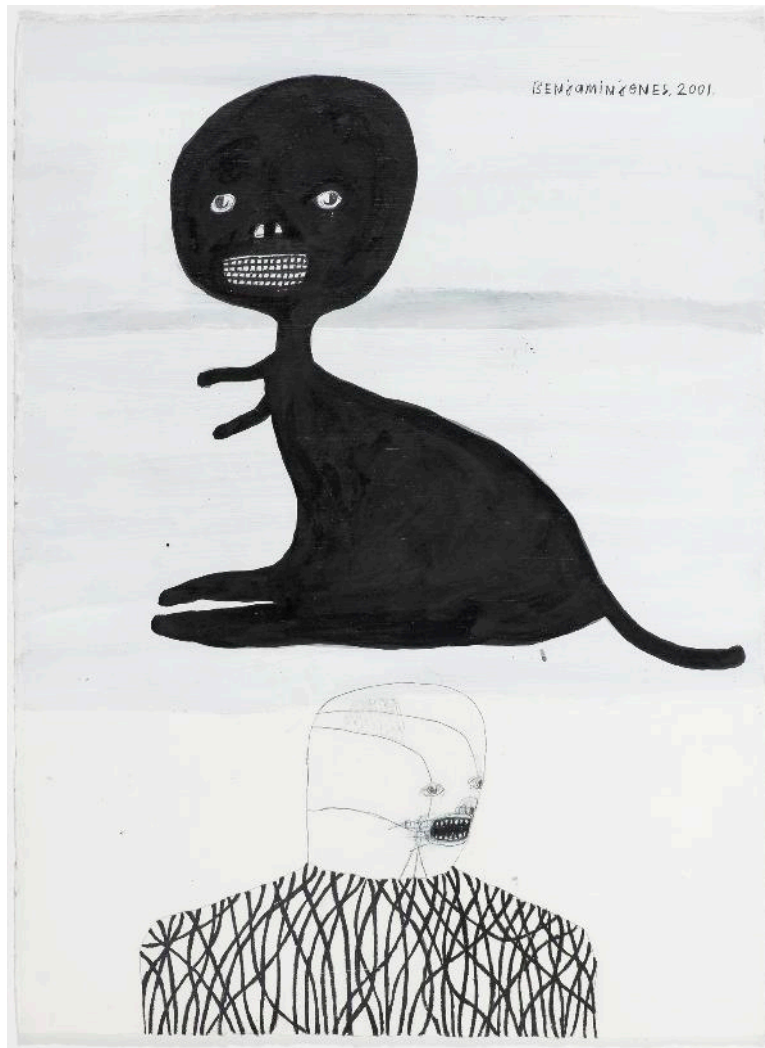




BENJAMIN JONES

SPEAKING



BENJAMIN JONES

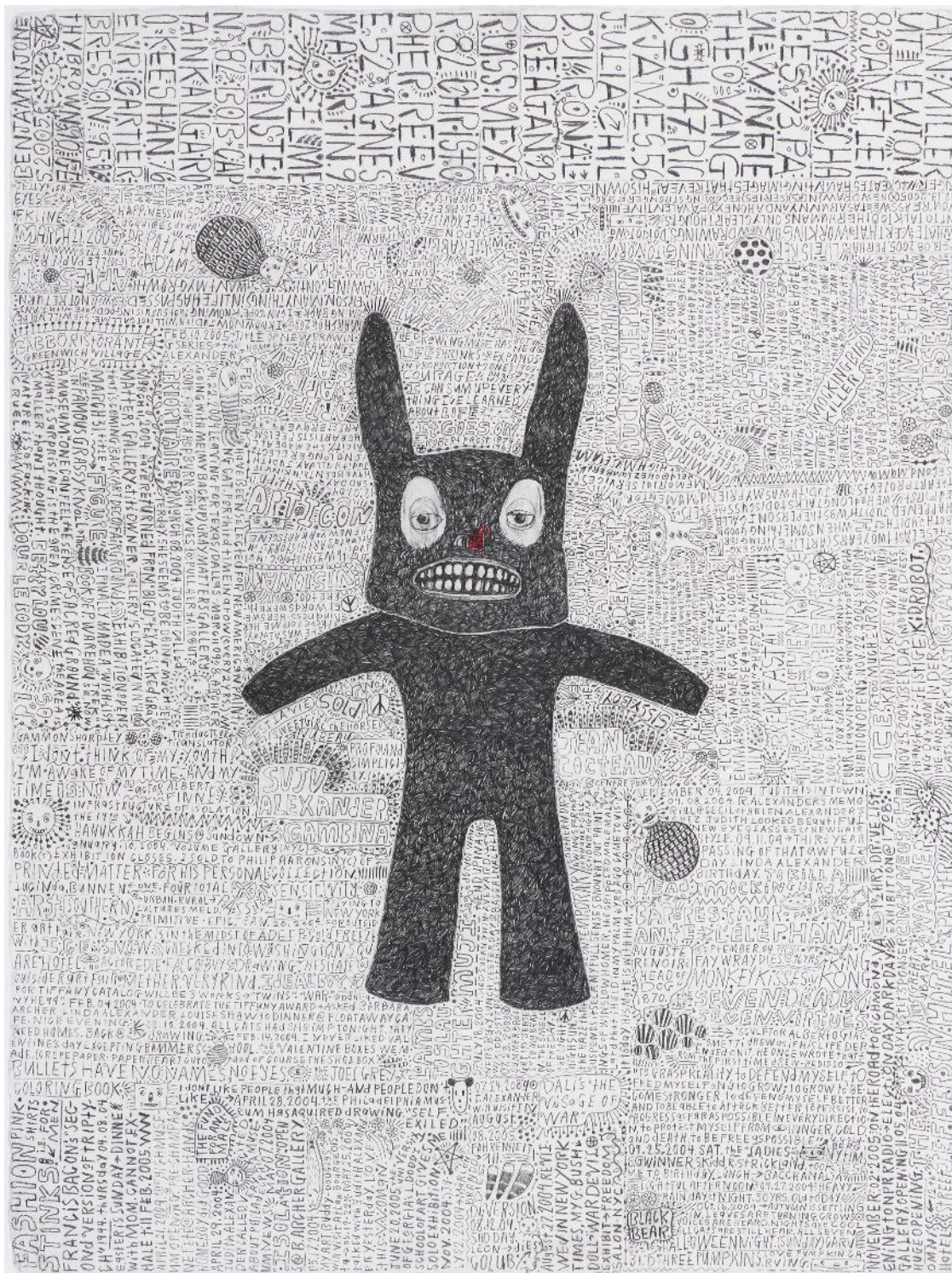
SPEAKING

Curated by Barbara Archer

The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia

Atlanta, Georgia

December 7, 2019 - February 15, 2020



NOTES FROM JOURNAL 2003-2004

2005, graphite on paper, 30.25 x 22.75 Inches

Collection of Harold and Angelique White

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia (MOCA GA) is proud to present *BENJAMIN JONES SPEAKING*, a major retrospective exhibition spanning the years 1985 - 2019 and showcasing 127 works including drawings, paintings, mixed media, artist made books, mail art and three-dimensional sculptures. Jones, a native Atlantan, has spent his career in such diverse locations as Atlanta, New York City, London, and most recently the Georgia coast. He has won numerous prestigious awards including The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts through the Southern Arts Federation. In addition, his work has been collected by such major institutions as the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania and the founding collection of MOCA GA, among others.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to our guest curator Barbara Archer, long time gallerist and owner of the Barbara Archer Gallery. Throughout the years, Barbara Archer has been responsible for placing Jones' work in important public and private collections. With this exhibition at MOCA GA she curated a scholarly and visually beautiful exhibition. Archer was instrumental in organizing this body of works, not chronologically, but under seven different revolving themes: Suffering, Mortality, Creatures, Loving, Playing Politics, Religion, and Inspiration. Throughout his career, Jones has continued to probe these various themes.

We are grateful to Brooke McDonald and Michael Brassert of HOUPLA, Inc. for producing an insightful documentary to accompany this exhibition. The link is available on our website or at the URL address:
<https://mocaga.org/benjaminjones/>

Thank you to Gammon Sharpley for sharing the personal story of his friendship with Jones. Through this narrative, the writer offers the reader a vicarious exploration of a certain genre of New York City in the late 1980s. Jones redacted specific lines in the story.

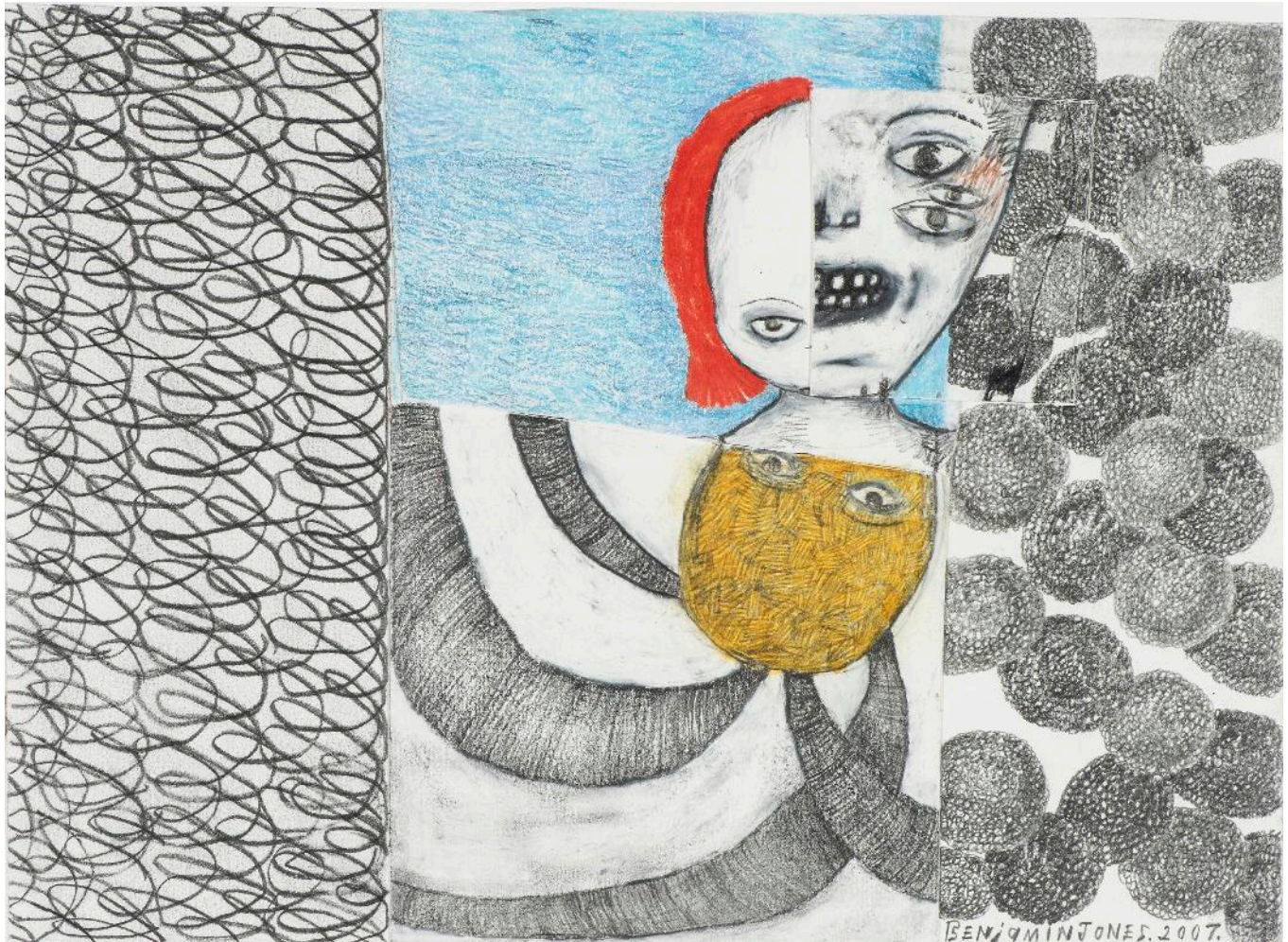
MOCA GA is so very grateful to the thirty-five collectors who loaned their artwork for the exhibition. You will find them listed in the exhibition list alongside the work they own. Without their willingness to share their treasured works, the breath of the exhibition would not be as complete.

A very special thank you to The LUBO Fund and to The Judith Alexander Foundation for supporting this exhibition. We also wish to express our gratitude to the many individual donors who contributed to this exhibition and to the donors who supported through the City of Atlanta, Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs Power2Give. Please see everyone listed on page fifty-seven.

Many thanks to MOCA GA's exceptional staff for support of this project. Eric Kaepplinger, Lead Art Preparator; Stacey Savatsky, Collections and Exhibitions Manager; Ariel Jones, Development Officer; Anais Lopez, Executive Assistant and Membership Manager and a very heartfelt thank you to Emily Knight, Designer of this catalogue.

On behalf of the The Museum of Contemporary art of Georgia's Board of Directors, I wish to express our gratitude to Benjamin Jones for entrusting us with the exhibition presentation of this major body of work from his sustained career in the visual arts.

Annette Cone-Skelton
President/CEO/Director
MOCA GA



DEADLY SIN DEVELOPING

2007, graphite, colored pencil and collage element on paper, 8.75 x 12 Inches
Collection of Ruth West

BENJAMIN JONES AND SYLVIA MILES IN HELL'S KITCHEN

At first glance these two personalities would seem to have little in common. The only thing they share for certain – as far as I know – is in 1987 they both came to a Christmas party at my humble 3 bedroom rent-controlled sublet on the corner of 49th Street and 8th Avenue. To an 8th-floor party venue perched right on the edge of then dicey Hell's Kitchen, a stone's throw from Times Square and a hop skip and jump from Rockefeller Center, atop a haunted, former residential hotel having mostly served transient Broadway show people since 1900.

Delighted as I was to welcome Ms. Miles (RIP) – the twice-nominated Oscar film star of Warhol fame, among other cinematic accomplishments – I had no idea how she got there or with whom she came. Benjamin Jones, on the other hand was expected, escorted by an entourage of known entities: fellow Texan Fred Dubose, Georgia artist Susan Loftin and the esteemed Atlanta grande dame and Patroness of the Arts, Judith Alexander. While Sylvia didn't linger at the overcrowded party, Benjamin ensconced himself on the sofa, at first deceptively shy and retiring, almost wallflower-like. As that evening wore on [REDACTED] Benjamin opened up and we really hit it off, thanks to a similarly twisted and outré sense of humor. That's when I noticed a similarity between him and Sylvia in Andy's "Heat"*.

Benjamin came to NYC to investigate a job opportunity at the American Crafts Museum where Loftin was head preparator of exhibitions. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He of course charmed the pants of all staff and got the job. Next on his agenda was finding a place to stay.

In a felicitous synchronicity of events, one of the bedrooms in my apartment came available. As head honcho of the place, I quickly informed Benjamin who immediately took it. The setup was perfect for him: 15 minute walk to the Crafts Museum, edgy neighborhood, amazing views of Manhattan, and we all smoked like factories and drank like fish.

I was amazed right away by Benjamin's incredibly spontaneous creativity. The whole time he was in NYC, he never ceased picking up whatever materials were lying around to whip, twist and snap them into something delightfully fabulous. I lucked out and received two wire masks. Followed by an endless series of little drawings and doodles and a magnificent large-format



drawing of a Janus-like creature. [REDACTED] Benjamin was never at a loss for ideas. The following Christmas as we were already environmentally anti-cut trees, Benjamin grabbed the hat rack, brooms, mops and plunger and strapped together a dazzling tree covered in red hot chili pepper lights and homemade decorations. At one point, Benjamin fled Manhattan for a month-long retreat at Nina Stritzler's place in Mattituck, on Long Island's North Shore. Nina, a curator at the Crafts Museum, made her family's waterfront home available to Benjamin so he could "decompress" from living in the throbbing center of the world. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He came back with armfuls of artwork, including a wonderful Styrofoam boy found on the beach. He had painted it with invented sigils and hieroglyphs, among which a virginal Marlo Thomas-like figure, sporting a "That Girl" helmet, standing in for Nefertiti.

Later, we both decided to leave New York – this time for Paris, the City of Lights.

I went to Paris first, got settled and then found a place for Benjamin where we could hopefully keep him under surveillance out of trouble. He arrived in late September, 1990. He only stayed 6 months. Of course he bedazzled all the Frenchies, but the communication barrier was exhausting for him, despite his reputation for speaking broken French with verve. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Fast-forward two decades or so, and I was chunneling over to London with mutual friends to see Benjamin's show in a well-heeled Mayfair Gallery – a big success. Though we see each other only occasionally these days, Benjamin has always kept in touch with the most imaginative, funny and ribald letters and postcards - each one more astounding then the last.

When I think of my extraordinarily gifted and often irracible friend, my mind always returns to the first time I laid eyes on Benjamin Jones and Sylvia Miles in my Hell's Kitchen sublet. And yes, I did notice a flicker of resemblance between the two. Think Norma Desmond.

Gammon Sharpley
Redacted by Benjamin Jones

Gammon Sharpley is a long time friend of Benjamin Jones. He holds a BA from NYU with majors in History, Art History and Politics, and a Masters in History from Université Paris - Sorbonne, Paris IV. A translator of exhibition catalogs, monographs and magazine articles on contemporary art and architecture, he currently lives in the south of France.

* *Heat*, a 1972 American comedy drama written/directed by Paul Morrissey and produced by Andy Warhol, was conceived as a parody of *Sunset Boulevard* (1950). Sylvia Miles' character Sally, a faded film star, is a re-make of Gloria Swanson's earlier character Norma Desmond





Gammon Sharpley and Benjamin Jones; Saint-Germain-en-laye, Paris, November 1990.





ISOLATING THE DISEASE (ISOLATION SERIES)

2003, graphite and colored pencil on paper, 18 x 23.5 Inches
Collection of Linda and Jim Alexander

WAR

2003, graphite and colored pencil on paper, 18 x 23.5 Inches
Collection of the artist



BENJAMIN JONES, 2003.



ROMAN HOLIDAY

2017-18, graphite and colored pencil on paper, 13 x 9.5 Inches
Collection of Barbara Archer and Peter Hand



UGLY INSIDE

2006, graphite, colored pencil and collage element on paper, 11.5 x 12 Inches
Collection of Charles and Harvie Abney



BRAINWASHING
2007, graphite, colored pencil and collage element on paper, 15.75 x 11.75 Inches
Collection of the artist

VIRTUE PATH (SINS AND VIRTUES SERIES)

2008, graphite, colored pencil and collage element on paper, 29.5 x 22.25 Inches

Collection of Sandy D'Aprile

SEVEN VIRTUES. 7.

PURE IDEAS OR FORMS. BEYOND THE SENSES. ABSTRACT FORM
TRUST → IN TODAY WORLD?
WHAT WOULD JESUS BOMB?
WHO WOULD JESUS HATE?

FAITH → MY LATE BROTHER'S (JIM) VIRTUE. JOY. CALM. BELIEVE. DR MARTIN L. KING. LOYALTY. → IMPLIES A FIRM RESISTANCE TO ANY TEMPTATION TO DESERT/BETRAY. NOEL. NATURE. PERSON. COMPLETE CONFIDENCE. DALI. TRUE SPIRITUALITY. LAMA.

HOPE → TRUST. WISH. WILL. EXPECTATION OF FULFILLMENT. CANDLE LIGHTS. RELIANCE. CHANGE OF SEASONS. — LIFE. RELIGIOUS RULING — ISRAEL 2007. ISRAEL'S CHIEF RABBI → JEWS MUST NOT WEAR FUR SKINNED FROM LIVE ANIMALS. THE FUND 4 DISCOURAGED ANIMALS. YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN. "NE SOIS PAS DÉCOURAGÉ. T'AS N'ES PAS OUBLIÉ." → "NO SE DES ANIME. NO ESTA OLVIDADO." "A PEACEABLE KINGDOM" PAINTING.

CHARITY → LOVE. HELP. EARTHLY DEARNESS. LENIENT JUDGEMENT. FOR THE NEEDY & SUFFERING. FEED THE HOMELESS. EL PARAGUAS. GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND. MOTHERHEN. DISCREET. SALE A SEAL → BOYCOTT CANADIAN SEAFOOD. PETA. DON COOPER. SOUND. **PRUDENCE** → GOOD COUNSEL OR. WISDOM. ALWAYS GIVE SOMETHING BACK. NOT JUST ACTIONS. BEGINS AT HOME. SHELTER. ALL CATS. INC. P.O. BOX 1095 DAWSONVILLE, GA 30534.0022. GARDENER. GUIDE DOG. FORESIGHTED. LOUISE BOURGEOIS. "THE COMMON PEOPLE." CAREFULNESS. DOCTOR WITHOUT BORDERS. A FINCH. OPEN HANDS. PAWS. ASPCA. FAIR. FARMSANCTUARY.ORG. "JEUNE HOMME" HIPPOLYTE FLANDRIN BEE. BENNY ANDREWS. CONSIDERATION. NATIONAL PARKS. CARETAKERS FOR EARTH HOME. NIGHTOWL. GREENPEACE. PEACE.ORG. **HUMAN RIGHTS** → IMPARTIAL. THE MAINTENANCE OR ADMINISTRATION OF WHAT IS JUST. RIGHTS ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF LAW OR EQUITY. EQUAL + EQUAL = EQUAL. MAKE ART NOT BULLETS. TULIPS. **LISTEN TO THE SONG OF LIFE.** LUCIANO. PAVAROTTI.

ZEN → **JUSTICE**. HARMONIOUS INTERPLAY. TRUTH. FACT-REASON. SNOWFLAKES. LIVING. MAKE ART NOT BULLETS. BOYCOTTS. PROTEST. WORK. TWO PATHS. MARCHES. PLAY. LIBRA. REP JOHN LEWIS. ROSEMARY CLOONEY'S. NATURE. JIMMY CARTER. "TESTADI DONNA" JAIL BIRD. "OUR GRIEF IS NOT PEACE DOVE. VOICE. TEACHING. LOST AND FOUND. PIANGENTE CON PROTEST SIGN → ACRY FOR WAR." SNOW COVERED AMSTERDAM SEEING THE LARGER PICTURE. GARDENS. FAZZOLETTO."

FORTITUDE → STRENGTH OF MIND. CAN ENNOBLE THE SOUL. SOLDIER. STAYING POWER. SUFFERING GET DEATH CONFRONTED. FIRE FIGHTER. BEAR PAIN. BRAVELY. OAK. TREK. STAMINA. THE WARRIOR. ELIZABETH. VALOR. SPIDERMAN. J.K. TAYLOR. THE ART OF HOPE. KATHERINE HEPBURN. HONESTY. "DAVID WARRIOR OF GIBRALTAR. BALLS. CHURCHILL. RUBY DEE. HELPING STRAY. COWBOY WAY OF LIFE. SUPERMAN. F.D.R. ANIMALS. YOUNG PICA'S SO. DIANA. PRINCE OF WALES. GHETA ET JOSE. SPIKE LEE. SECRETARIAT. CHIHUAHUAS. LEON GOLDB.

OBAMA 4 PRESIDENT

BENJAMIN JONES, 05. BENJAMIN JONES, 2007. HAPPY MEDIUM. AURDEY HEPBURN. "HELLO KITTY". BEEKEEPER. SPARE. COUNTRY LIFE. QUEEN ELIZABETH II. FARM. MODERATE. IN ACTION. THOUGHT. LIFE. RESTRAINT. **TEMPERANCE** → SELF-CONTROL. HABITUAL MODERATION IN THE INDULGENCE OF THE APPETITES OR PASSION. ABSENCE OF EXTRAVAGANCE. VIOLENCE. EXTREME PARTISANSHIP. TERESA. SEAHORSE. UNWICKED. LIMIT. MOTHER NELSON MANDELA. HALE.

PRUDENCE → GOOD COUNSEL OR. WISDOM. CAREFULNESS. DOCTOR WITHOUT BORDERS. A FINCH. CARETAKERS FOR EARTH HOME. NIGHTOWL. VALENTINES. **LISTEN TO THE SONG OF LIFE.** LUCIANO. PAVAROTTI.

Miss

BOY.



PAIN

2000, graphite, colored pencil, oil stick and masking tape on paper, 40 x 26 Inches
Collection of Marianne Lambert

~~BENJAMIN ZAVES. 1998.~~



~~playing~~ politics

religion

suffering

mortality



Stop

STOP WAR

2003, graphite and colored pencil on paper, 7.25 x 8 Inches
Courtesy of Laney Contemporary

Stop War.



benjamin jones, 2003.

TRIBE (POTUS SERIES)

2018, graphite, colored pencil and collage elements on paper, 22 x 30 Inches

Collection of the artist





PRIDE (SINS AND VIRTUES SERIES)
2006, graphite, colored pencil and collage elements on paper, 15 x 11.5 inches
Collection of Lucinda Bunnen

BURNING YOUR FRIEND
2008, graphite and colored pencil on paper, 16 x 11.75 inches
Collection of Barbara Archer and Peter Hand



NEW YORK DOGS

1989, charcoal, graphite, spraypaint, oil pastel and india ink on paper, 31.5 x 60.25 Inches

Collection of the artist







VICTIMS OF JUDGMENT
 2007, graphite, colored pencil and collage on paper, 30 x 22.5 Inches
 Collection of Kevin O'Connor

ANIMAL KINGDOM

1990, mixed media on wood, 48 x 48 Inches

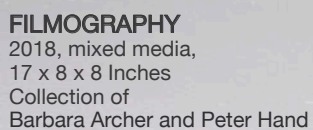
Collection of the artist



inspiration

loving

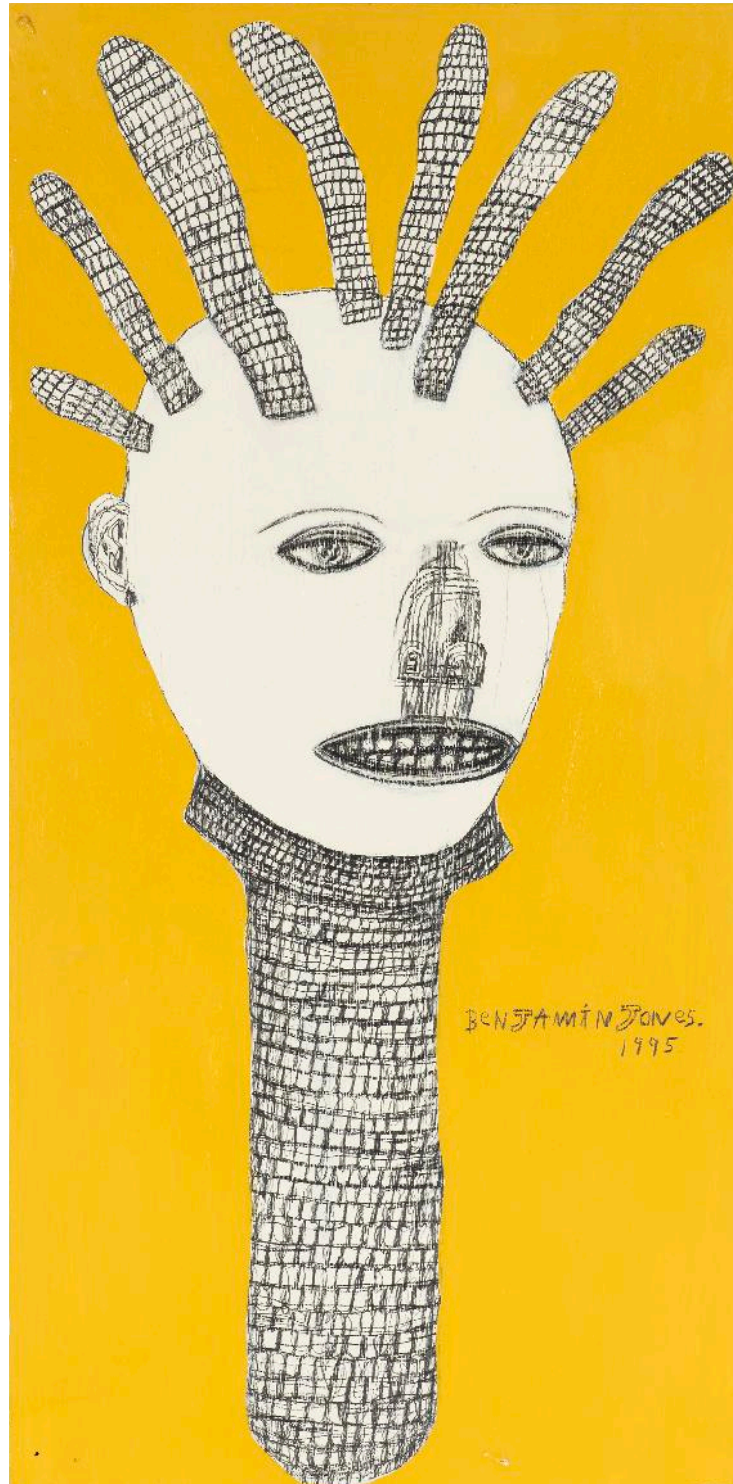
creatures



HOPELESSNESS

1995, graphite and paint on wood, 23 x 11.25 Inches

Collection of the artist



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LOVE BIRDS
1998, colored pencil and collage on paper, 11.75 x 12.25 Inches
Courtesy of Laney Contemporary

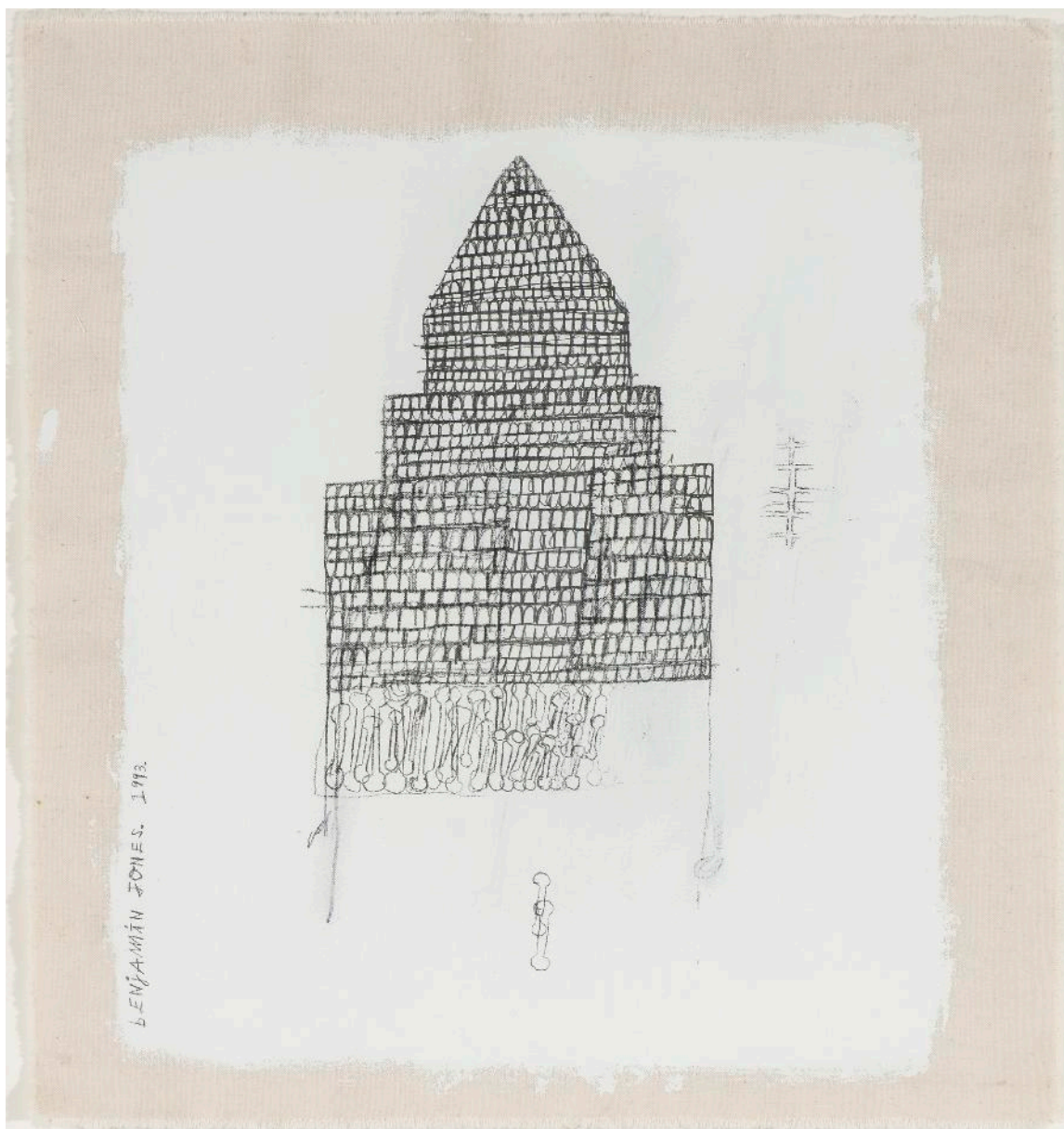
ISOLATED BY BORDERS (ISOLATION SERIES)
2003, colored pencil on paper, 18 x 23.5 Inches
Courtesy of Laney Contemporary

ISOLATED
BY BORDERS.



BENJAMIN JONES, 2003.





COLUMBARIUM, PÉRE LACHAISE

1993, graphite and gesso on canvas, 20 x 19 Inches
Collection of Barbara Archer and Peter Hand

BENJAMIN JONES

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 BENJAMIN JONES SPEAKING, The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2019 SALT ISLAND, Whitespace Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2015 OBSERVATIONS, Stewart Gallery, Boise, Idaho
- 2008 SINS + VIRTUES, Barbara Archer Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
DRAWING A DIVERSION, John Martin Gallery, London, England
- 2006 BENJAMIN JONES @ ART LONDON, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London, England
BENJAMIN JONES, Barbara Archer Gallery, Savannah, Georgia
- 2005 THE ALEXANDER HOMAGE DRAWING SERIES, Barbara Archer
Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2004 BENJAMIN JONES DRAWING, Lamar Dodd School of Art, University of
Georgia, Athens, Georgia
DRAWING, 1708 Gallery, Richmond, Virginia
ISOLATION, Barbara Archer Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
FIGURE, Gray Matters Gallery, Dallas, Texas
- 2002 WORKS ON PAPER, 1987-2002, Barbara Archer Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 1998 A SHORT LIFE, Sandler Hudson, Atlanta, Georgia
- 1994 DR. FRANKENSTEIN'S ANIMAL SHOW, Mattress Factory Building,
Atlanta, Georgia
- 1993 NATURE'S ODDITY, Billboard, Arts Festival of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 THE ARTIST EXHIBITION, Laney Contemporary, Savannah, Georgia
- 2017 WORK ON PAPER, Stewart Gallery, Boise, Idaho
- 2016 LINE, Stewart Gallery, Boise, Idaho
ART ON PAPER, New York, New York
- 2015 THE DRAWING EXPERIMENT, Chastain Arts Center Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2013 DRAWING INSIDE THE PERIMETER, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia
4 x 4, Barbara Archer Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2009 BENJAMIN JONES @ ART LA, Stewart Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 2008 MASTER DRAWINGS LONDON, London, England
- 2006 OBJECTS OF DESIRE, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland
GRAPHIC EXPRESSIONS: AMERICAN WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE PERMANENT
COLLECTION, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia
EVIDENCE: PAPER WORKS, The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, Georgia

- 2005 RECENT ACQUISITIONS, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana
DRAWING CONCLUSIONS, Georgia State University Rialto Center for the Performing Arts,
Atlanta, Georgia
- 2004 CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN DRAWINGS FROM THE PERMANENT
COLLECTION, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia
FREEDOM SALON, Deitch Projects, New York, New York
- 2003 reading: material, Volume Gallery, New York, New York
- 2002 GEORGIA TRIENNIAL, City Gallery East, Atlanta, Georgia
- 1998 NEW ORLEANS TRIENNIAL, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1995 NEW ORLEANS TRIENNIAL, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1994 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND SOUTHERN ARTS
FEDERATION REGIONAL FELLOWS, Southeast Center of Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem,
North Carolina
- 1994 CREATING IN CRISIS: MAKING ART IN THE MIDST OF AIDS,
Spaces Contemporary Art Center, Cleveland Ohio
- 1988 ARTISTS IN GEORGIA, Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, Georgia
- 1985 ARTISTS IN GEORGIA, Georgia Museum Of Art, Athens, Georgia

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2003 The Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Individual Artist Grant
- 1997 Residency Fellowship, The Hambidge Center, Rabun Gap, Georgia
- 1996 Residency Fellowship and CGR Scholarship, The Hambidge Center,
Rabun Gap, Georgia
- 1994 National Endowment for the Arts and Southern Arts Federation Regional
Fellowship
- 1993 Georgia Council for the Arts, Individual Artist Grant in Drawing

SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia
 Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana
 Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, Louisiana
 Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia
 J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky
 Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Alabama
 Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, Georgia



RABBITS (HOMAGE TO DUBUFFET)
Papier mache, gesso, paint and collage element, 10 x 8 x 8 Inches
Collection of Susan Kidd



DECLINE OF CIVILIZATION (DECLINE OF CIVILIZATION SERIES)

1995, found paper, acrylic paint on canvas, 29 x 73.5 x 1.5 Inches

Courtesy of Whitespace Gallery

Mennello Museum of American Folk Art, Orlando, Florida
State University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia
Phillip Aarons + PRINTED MATTER, New York, New York
Patch Adams, M.D. + Gesundheit Institute, Arlington, Virginia
The Judith Alexander Foundation, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia
Lucinda Bunnan, Atlanta, Georgia
James Brett, London, England
Edie Falco, New York, New York
King and Spalding, LLP., Atlanta, Georgia
Fabio Rossi, London and Hong Kong
Stonehurst Place Designs, Atlanta, Georgia

AFFILIATIONS

Drawing Center Viewing Program Artist Registry, New York, New York
Henry Boxer Gallery, London, England
Laney Contemporary, Savannah, Georgia
Shrine, New York, New York
Whitespace, Atlanta, Georgia

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Constitution, 01/11/2020
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GAY, MANN, PECOU + MORE / BENJAMIN JONES, ARTSATL, 12/27/2019
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THE ART OF BREATHING AGAIN, ARTSATL, 12/16/2019
Felicia Feaster, A PEEK INTO ARTISTIC PROCESS, CHOICES IN 'THE DRAWING EXPERIMENT,' Atlanta
Journal-Constitution, 07/27/15
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Catherine Fox, MUSEUM SCORES BIG WITH DONATION, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 08/19/04, p. B1

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Jerry Cullum, SOUTHERN DRAW, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 05/06/04, *Access Atlanta*, p. 40

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Catherine Fox, THE ART OF AFTERWARD, IN THE WAKE OF SEPTEMBER 11, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 12/30/01

Catherine Fox, WHAT A WONDERFUL WORD, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 08/31/01

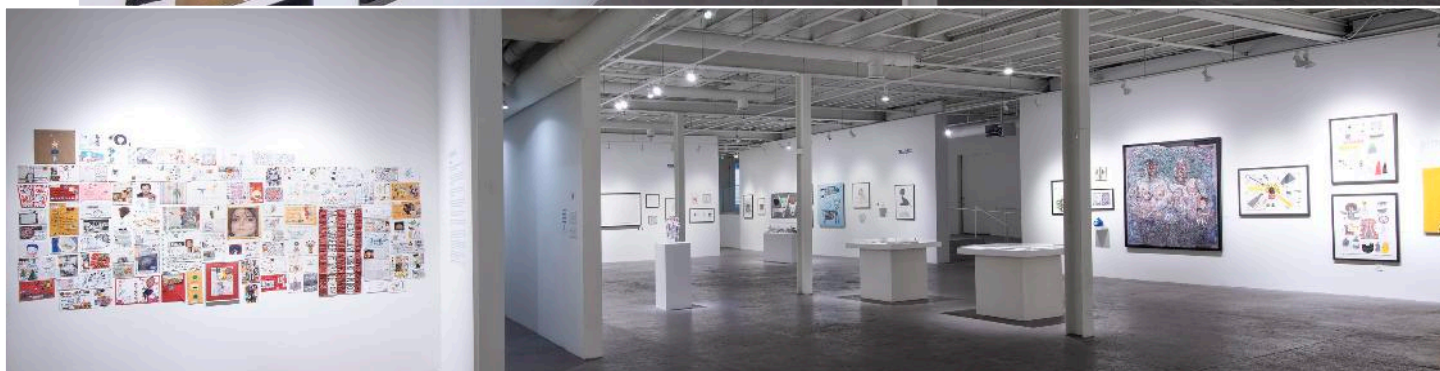
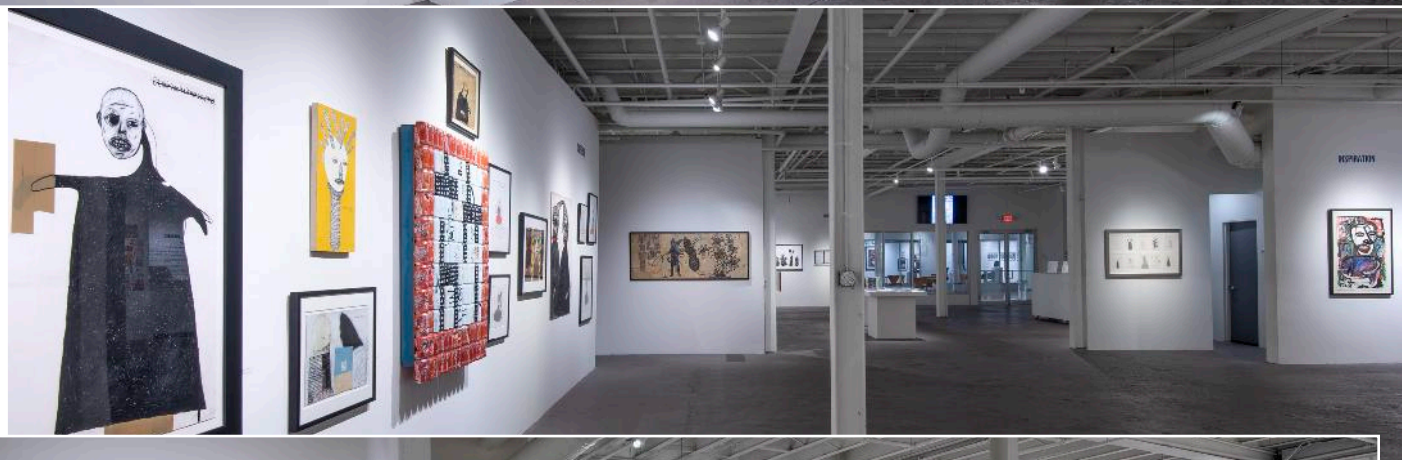
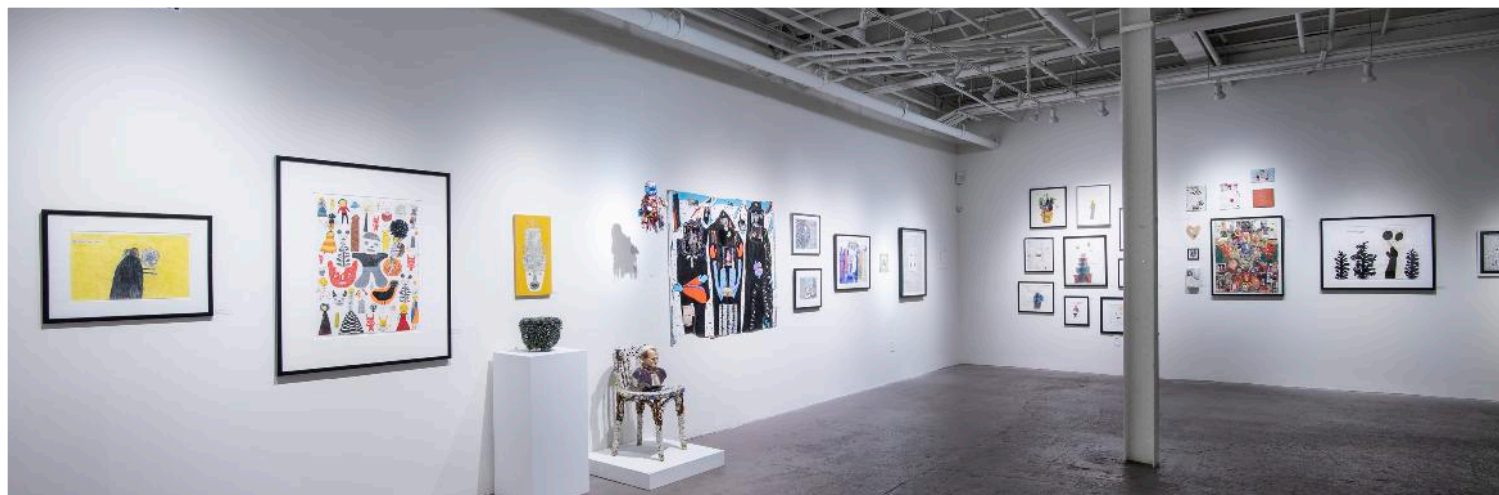
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Catherine Fox, BEGINNING AT THE END, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 04/14/98

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INSTALLATION VIEWS OF BENJAMIN JONES SPEAKING AT MOCA GA, 2019

WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION

ANIMAL KINGDOM

1990
Mixed media on wood
48 x 48 inches
Collection of the artist

ARTIST'S PERSONAL COLLECTION OF FIGURINES

1961 to present
Mixed media

BLUE BIRD

1996
Graphite, colored pencil on paper
26.5 x 32 inches
Collection of Linda and Jim Alexander

CIRCUS CAT HEAD

2002
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
18.75 x 19.75 inches
Collection of Linda and Jim Alexander

DEVIL CATS

2005
Graphite, colored pencil and collage element on paper
14.5 x 10.5 inches
Collection of Jane Weinmann

DINOSAUR

2001
India Ink, Graphite, and Collage Element
13.25 x 10 inches
Collection of the artist

FEED ME (SHORT LIFE SERIES)

1997
Colored pencil and graphite on McDonald's paper bag
11 x 7 inches
Collection of the artist

FIGURE BETWEEN TWO YELLOW FACES

2005
Mixed media
16.25 x 10.25 inches
Collection of Ann and Michael Kay

FOOD CHAIN (SHORT LIFE SERIES)

Graphite, colored pencil and collage element on paper
22.5 x 17.5 inches
Collection of the artist

LOST

1999
Graphite and colored pencil
13.25 x 11 inches
Courtesy of Laney Contemporary

LOVE BIRDS

1998
Colored pencil and collage on paper
11.75 x 12.25 inches
Courtesy of Laney Contemporary

NEW YORK DOGS

1989
Charcoal, Graphite, spraypaint, oil pastel and India ink on paper
31.5 x 60.25 inches
Collection of the artist

PEACEFUL KINGDOM

1991
Collage on board
12 x 11.25 inches
Collection of the artist

RABBITS (HOMAGE TO DUBUFFET)

Papier mache, gesso, paint and collage element
10 x 8 x 8 inches
Collection of Susan Kidd

SISSY BOY

2005
Graphite on paper and collage element
14.25 x 10.5 inches
Collection of the artist

TEDDY BEAR

Mixed media
25 x 15 x 9 inches
Collection of the artist

UNTITLED

1993
Mixed media
11.25 x 7.75 inches
Collection of Debbie and Paul Hudson

WINTER DEPRESSION

2001
Graphite, India ink and gesso on paper
29.75 x 22.5 inches
Anonymous Collection

CLOWN (CIRCUS SERIES)

2002
Mixed media on paper
56 x 37 inches
Collection of Barbara Archer and Peter Hand

DAIRY QUEEN BOOK

2013
Handmade book, paper
9.625 x 6.5 inches
Collection of the artist

FEMALE FIGURE

2003
Graphite on paper
14.25 x 10.25 inches
Collection of the artist

FIGURE WITH THREE RED MARKS

1998
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
8 x 9.5 inches
Collection of the artist

FILMOGRAPHY

2018
Mixed media
17 x 8 x 8 inches
Collection of Barbara Archer and Peter Hand

GROUP ASSEMBLED

2010
Graphite on paper
19.75 x 37.75 inches, 8.75 x 6 inches each page
Collection of Judy and Scott Lampert

JOURNAL

09/2006 – 04/2007
Bound book, paper
8.375 x 6.125 inches
Collection of the artist

JOURNAL

12/2007 – 11/2008
Handmade book (Paris map)
6.25 x 6.25 inches
Collection of the artist

JOURNAL

05/1999 – 01/2001
Bound book (Abuse/Jail)
10.25 x 8 inches
Collection of the artist

JOURNAL
03/2005 – 08/2006
Hard-ringed book (boycott)
9 x 8 inches
Collection of the artist

NOTES FROM JOURNAL 2003-2004
2005
Graphite on paper
30.25 x 22.75 inches
Collection of Harold and
Angelique White

PASSPORT
12/20/2002 – 01/06/2003
Handmade book, paper
6 x 4 inches
Collection of the artist

PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG ARTIST
1999
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
13.25 x 11 inches
Collection of the artist

PORTRAIT OF LUCY CURRIE
1994
Graphite
10.75 x 8.75 inches
Collection of Lavona Currie

PORTRAIT OF NUDE ARTIST
1997
Collage drawing, watercolor and colored pencil
on canvas, mounted on wood
15 x 14.75 inches
Collection of the artist

PORTRAIT OF PRODUCE BOY
1987
Watercolor and acrylic on paper
39 x 27.5 inches
Collection of the artist

SEPTEMBER 4, 2006
2007
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
30 x 22.5 inches
Collection of Judy and Scott Lampert

SUNDAY IN THE PARK (CIRCUS SERIES)
2002
Collage with graphite, colored pencil, and india
ink on paper
58.5 x 42.5 inches
Collection of Virginia Philip

THE DINNER PARTY
2006
Wooden utensils, colored pencil, collage element
and gesso
46 x 10 inches
Collection of Betty Harbourt

THOUGHTS
2018
Graphite on printed paper
11.75 x 18 inches
Collection of the artist

AUDREY HEPBURN OBITUARY
A. HEPBURN - 1993
Graphite and collage element
6 x 9.25 inches
Collection of the artist

BOOK: ONE YEAR
9/11 2001 – 9/11 2002
Polaroids and handmade book, paper
5.5 x 7.25 inches
Collection of the artist

BOY WITH CAP
2005
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
8.5 x 5.5 inches
Collection of Ann and Michael Kay

CARE TAKER
2004
Graphite, colored pencil and collage
element on paper
23 x 30 inches
Collection of Barbara Archer and
Peter Hand

CITY OF LIGHTS
Mixed media collage
33.5 x 24.5 inches
Collection of the artist

FIGURE IN BLUE
1999
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
12.5 x 14 inches
Collection of Ruth West

HEAD WITH YELLOW HAIR
1996
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
10 x 10 inches
Collection of Jane Cofer and
David Roper

HEART
1996
Collage
7.25 x 6 inches
Collection of the artist

HUSBAND AND HUSBAND
2003
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
9 x 12 inches
Collection of the artist

I KEPT MY BABIES
2005
Collage, Polaroids and black marker
12.375 x 8.125 inches
Collection of the artist

JOURNAL
05/2007 – 09/2007
Chinese handmade paper
9.625 x 6.625 inches
Collection of the artist

KATHERINE HEPBURN/LUCINDA
BUNNEN/BARBARA STANWYCK
2003
Colored pencil on paper
14.5 x 10.25 inches each
Collection of Lucinda Bunnan

LUCIANO OBITUARY
LUCIANO - 2001
Graphite and collage element
11.75 x 8.5 inches
Collection of the artist

MERYL STREEP BOOK
2010, updated 2016 and 2019
Mixed media
9.5 x 7 inches
Collection of Linda and Jim Alexander

PARIS
2000
Graphite, colored pencil and collage
element on paper
16.25 x 12.25
Collection of Julie and JP Boulee

PARIS
1988
Clay tile
8.25 x 8.25 inches
Collection of the artist

PARIS 1922
1986
Collage, paper elements, and acrylic paint
3.25 x 2.25 inches
Collection of the artist

PASTORAL SYMPHONY
1999
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
16.25 x 14 inches
Collection of Lucinda Bunnen

RAIN FOREST
1988
Color pencil on gesso and cardboard
9 x 5 x 2.5 inches
Collection of Gena Spivey VanDerKloot

ROMAN HOLIDAY (SALT ISLAND SERIES)
2017-18
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
13 x 9.5 inches
Collection of Barbara Archer and Peter Hand

SWEET YELLOW DOG
2004
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
14.5 x 10.5 inches
Collection of Stonehurst Place
Bed & Breakfast

THE JOEL GRAY DRAWING BOOK, 1990 - 2002
1990-2002
Mixed media
16 x 11.75 inches
Collection of Richard Kaye

TOPIARY
2000
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
23.25 x 18 inches
Collection of Sylvia Kortan

ANGEL OF DEATH
1992
Paint, gesso and paper mache
17 x 16 x 6.5 inches
Collection of the artist

AWAITING EXEXUTION (SHORT LIFE SERIES)
1998
Mixed media on paper
8.75 x 10 inches
Collection of MOCA GA, Gift of Judith Alexander Foundation

BONEYARD
1995
Gesso and graphite on wood
24 x 18 inches
Collection of the artist

COLUMBARIUM, PERE LACHAISE
1993
Graphite and gesso on canvas
20 x 19 inches
Collection of Barbara Archer and Peter Hand

DECAY, DEATH, DISEASED, AND DOG
1997
Graphite, colored pencil and collage
element on paper
10 x 27.25 inches, 10 x 6.25 inches each
page
Collection of Julie and Alex Wallace

EARLY WAR DEAD
2007
Pen and ink
29.5 x 115 inches
Collection of Lucinda Bunnen

FIGURE IN BLACK (PAIN SERIES)
2002
Colored pencil on cardboard
14.5 x 11 inches
Collection of Linda and Jim Alexander

JOHN F. KENNEDY JR. OBITUARY
1999
Graphite and collage element
12.25 x 9 inches
Collection of the artist

MATTHEW SHEPPARD (SHORT LIFE SERIES)
1998
Graphite and collage element on cigar
box top
6 x 6.5 inches
Collection of the artist

PRINCESS DIANA OBITUARY
P. DIANA - 1997
Graphite and collage element
12.25 x 9 inches
Collection of the artist

SILENCE = DEATH
1993
Mixed media
12.5 x 7.75 inches
Collection of the artist

STOP WAR
2003
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
7.25 x 8 inches
Courtesy of Laney Contemporary

TAMMY WYNETTE OBITUARY
TAMMY W. - 1998
Graphite and collage element
12.25 x 8.875 inches
Collection of the artist

THE DEATH OF A CHIHUAHA
1995
India Ink and wash, colored pencil, gesso, and
collage element on paper
6 x 6.5 inches
Collection of the artist

AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS (PONTUS SERIES)
2018
Graphite, colored pencil and collage
element on paper
22 x 30 inches
Collection of the artist

BRAINWASHING
2007
Graphite, colored pencil and collage
element on paper
15.75 x 11.75 inches
Collection of the artist

CRUCIFIED
2004
Milk bottles, collage element and straight pins
9.25 x 4 and 7.125 x 3.25 inches
Collection of Linda and Jim Alexander

GROUP A (POTUS SERIES)
2018
Graphite , colored pencil and collage
element on paper
22 x 30 inches
Collection of the artist

INVASION (DECLINE OF CIVILIZATION SERIES)
1995
Graphite, colored pencil and paint on
wood
40.75 x 80.75 inches
Collection of the artist

ISOLATED BY BORDERS (ISOLATION SERIES)
2003

Colored pencil on paper
18 x 23.5 inches
Courtesy of Laney Contemporary

MADONNAS OF THE PLAINS/KILLING INDIANS
(HOW THE WEST WAS WON SERIES)

1985
Mixed media on paper
68.5 x 58.5 inches
Collection of the University of West Georgia,
Department of Art

MARILYN QUAYLE SPEAKING AT THE
REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

1992
Blue paint, graphite and colored pencil on wood
9 x 9.5 inches
Collection of Alex Martinez

NO MORE HATE GROUPS (THE NEW 10
COMMANDMENTS SERIES)

2000
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
23.25 x 18 inches
Collection of Judy and Scott Lampert

PEACE GOURD

1996
Paint and Blue Gesso on gourd
8 x 7 inches
Collection of the artist

POTUS AND FLOTUS

2018
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
9 x 13.25 inches
Collection of the artist

TRIBES (POTUS SERIES)

2018
Graphite, colored pencil and collage
element on paper
22 x 30 inches
Collection of the artist

VOCABULARY (POTUS SERIES)

2019
Colored pencil and paper map
38 x 50 inches
Collection of the artist

WAR

2003
Graphite and colored pencil on Paper
18 x 23.5 inches
Collection of the artist

WAR ORPHAN

2003
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
23.25 x 18 inches
Collection of Stephanie Adams

WWII

2001
Flag and collage element
11 x 16.75 inches
Collection of the artist

BABY DOLL

1997
Mixed media
15" x 8" inches (doll)
Collection of the artist

CONNECTED (SINS AND VIRTUES SERIES)

2007
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
12 x 16 inches
Collection of Judy and Scott Lampert

DEADLY SIN DEVELOPING (SINS AND VIRTUES
SERIES)

2007
Graphite, colored pencil and collage
element on paper
8.75 x 12 inches
Collection of Ruth West

DEVIL PARADES

1997
Acrylic paint, colored pencil, collage
element on paper affixed to canvas
28 x 29.5 inches
Collection of the artist

FATHER, SON & THE HOLY GHOST (BACK
MADONNA OF POLAND SERIES)

1985
Mixed media on paper
51.25 x 58.5 inches
Collection of the artist

JESUS

1997
Collage, paint and colored pencil on
cardboard
9.5 x 8.5 inches
Collection of the artist

MARBLES BOWL

1993
Marble
9 x 11 inches
Collection of Marianne Lambert

NOT INVITED

1992
Mixed media
12 x 7.75 inches
Collection of the artist

PASSING JUDGMENT

1995
Gesso, graphite and paint on wood
22.5 x 11.5 inches
Collection of Linda and Jim
Alexander

PEACE IN THE VALLEY

1992
Mixed media
12.25 x 7.5 inches
Collection of the artist

PRIDE (SINS AND VIRTUES SERIES)

2006
Graphite, colored pencil and collage
element on paper
15 x 11.5 inches
Collection of Lucinda Bunnan

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISSI

1999
Watercolor and India ink on paper
11.25 x 7.75 inches
Collection of Susan Gwinner

SPRINGTIME

1992-1993
Mixed media
31 x 15.5 x 19.5 inches
Collection of MOCA GA, Gift of the artist in honor
of Peter Hand.

THE ANNUNCIATION

1995
Mixed media on paper
19 x 24 inches
Collection of the artist

THE MEAK SHALL INHERIT

1998
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
11.75 x 17.75 inches
Collection of MOCA GA, Gift of Rocio Rodriguez

VICTIMS OF JUDGEMENT
2007
Graphite, colored pencil and collage on paper
30 x 22.5 inches
Collection of Kevin O'Connor

VIRTUE PATH (SINS AND VIRTUES SERIES)
2008
Graphite, colored pencil and collage
element on paper
29.5 x 22.25 inches
Collection of Sandy D'Aprile

BK 4013970061794
1995-1997
Graphite and paint on wood
11.5 x 22 inches
Collection of the artist

BODY & SOUL
1997
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
9.5 x 9.5 inches
Collection of the artist

BURNING YOUR FRIEND
2008
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
16 x 11.75 inches
Collection of Barbara Archer and Peter Hand

BUTCHER
1996
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
6.5 x 10 inches
Collection of the artist

CHANGING
2003
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
16 x 12 inches
Collection of Steven and Catherine Fox

CROWDED
2003
Color pencil and collage on paper
23.5 x 18 inches
Collection of Louis Corrigan

DECLINE OF CIVILIZATION (DECLINE OF
CIVILIZATION SERIES)
1995
Found paper, acrylic paint on canvas
29 x 73.5 x 1.5 inches
Courtesy of Whitespace Gallery

DOLLY THE SHEEP OBITUARY
DOLLY - 2003
Graphite and collage element
8.625 x 8.25 inches
Collection of the artist

EVIL STEP SISTERS
1987
Charcoal, chalk and pastel on paper
38.5 x 50 inches
Collection of the artist

HOPELESSNESS
1995
Graphite and paint on wood
23 x 11.25 inches
Collection of the artist

INSOMNIAC (DECLINE OF CIVILIZATION
SERIES)
1994
Black acrylic and paper on canvas
13.5 x 14.5 inches
Collection of Richard Sudden

ISOLATING THE DISEASE (ISOLATION SERIES)
2003
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
18 x 23.5 inches
Collection of Linda and Jim Alexander

MOLESTED
1994
Graphite, India ink and collage element
on paper
13.5 x 18.5 inches
Collection of the artist

NATURE'S LANDSCAPE
Mixed media
52 x 39 x 5.5 inches
Collection of Susan Kidd

PAIN
2000
Graphite, colored pencil, oil stick and
masking tape on paper
40 x 26 inches
Collection of Marianne Lambert

PORCUPINE BOY
2002
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
9.5 x 12 inches
Collection of Kevin O'Connor

SCREAM
2000
Graphite and colored pencil on paper
12.5 x 41 inches
Collection of the artist

TORNADO
1995
Graphite and gouache on paper
9.5 x 8 inches
Collection of Stonehurst Place
Bed & Breakfast

UGLY INSIDE
2006
Graphite colored pencil and collage
element on paper
11.5 x 12 inches
Collection of Charles and Harvie Abney



INSTALLATION VIEW OF BENJAMIN JONES: SPEAKING AT MOCA GA, 2019

Thank you to Annette Cone-Skelton and the staff of MOCA GA for your professionalism and tireless efforts in making this exhibition possible. “Merci” to Gammon Sharpley for sharing your personal and witty insights into the personality of Benjamin Jones. A special thanks to Brooke McDonald and Michael Brassert of Houpla, Inc for the beautiful short documentary on the artist, and to Frank Relations and Julie Mesmer Wallace for editing expertise. We are grateful to the generous lenders to BENJAMIN JONES SPEAKING, to all who made donations in support of the exhibition and to those who provide ongoing encouragement. And finally, to Benjamin, thank you for sharing the profound gift of your art.

Barbara Archer, Curator



MARILYN QUAYLE SPEAKING AT THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION
1992, blue print, graphite and colored pencil on wood, 9 x 9.5 Inches
Collection of Alex Martinez



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
1999, watercolor and india ink on paper, 11.25 x 7.75 inches
Collection of Susan Gwinner

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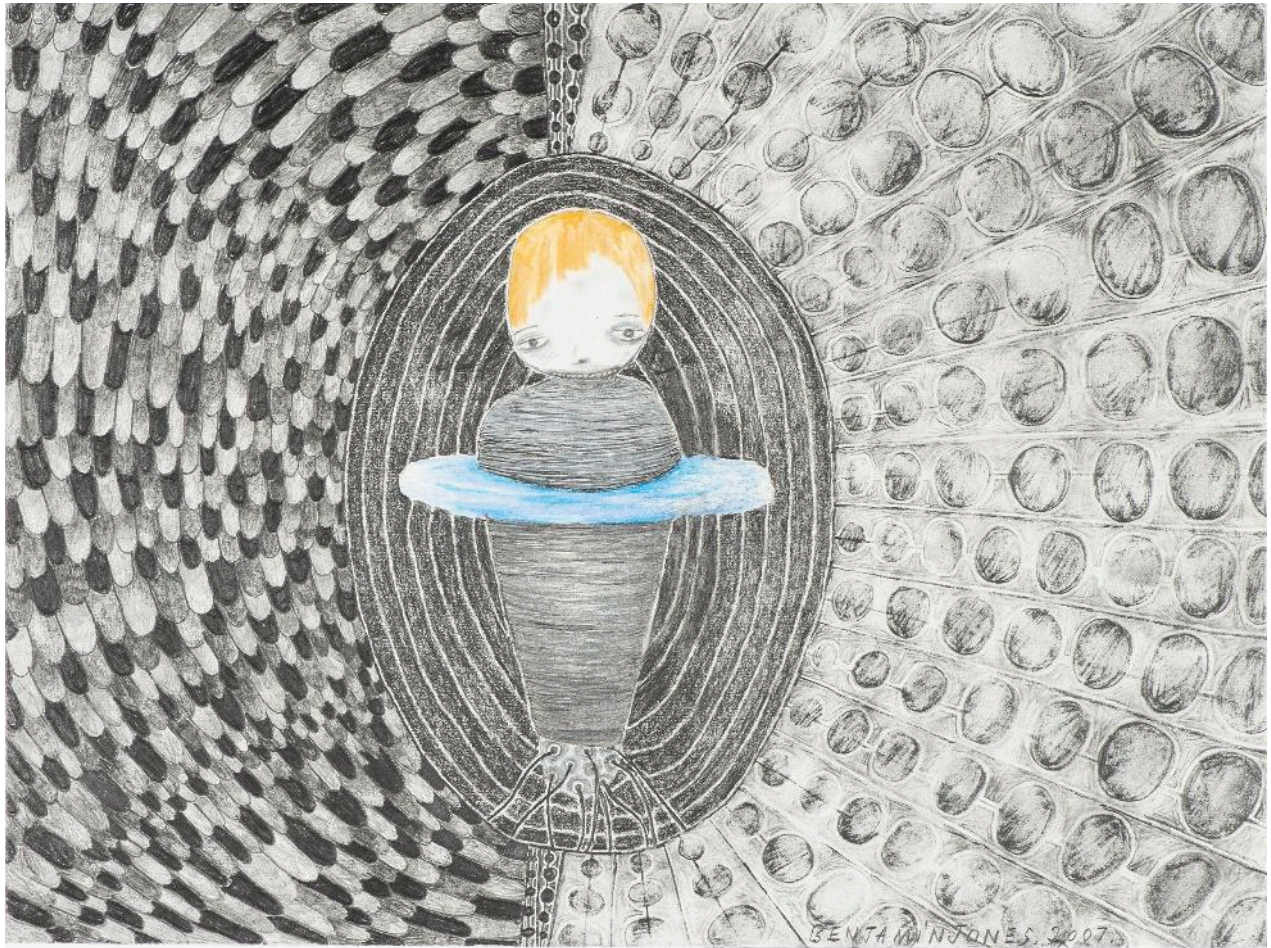
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Benjamin Jones SPEAKING

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(Cover)
WINTER DEPRESSION
2001, graphite, india ink and gesso on paper, 29.75 x 22.5
Inches. Anonymous collection

(Opposite Page)
CONNECTED (SINS AND VIRTUES SERIES)
2007, graphite and colored pencil on paper, 12 x 16 Inches
Collection of Judy and Scott Lampert



THANK YOU THE MANY SUPPORTERS OF THIS EXHIBITION AND CATALOGUE

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Harvie & Charles Abney, Linda & Jim Alexander, Judith M. Anderson, Barbara Archer & Peter Hand, Susan Bridges, Marcia R. Cohen, Laney Contemporary, Louis Corrigan, Sandy D'Aprile, Steven & Catherine Fox, Susan Gwinner, Rick Kaye, Judy & Scott Lampert, Marianne Lambert, Amy Landesberg, Elizabeth Lide, Tom Meiss, Fabio Rossi, Rob Smulian, Hilton Spence, Elizabeth Spiegel, Stephanie Sudden, Stephen Swicegood, Hal Vaughn, Julie Wallace, Jane Weinmann, Allison Claire Wertheimer, Andrea Weyermann, and Robert Woodhurst

Special Thank you to The Judith Alexander Foundation and The LUBO Fund for supporting this exhibition

Organized in seven enticing themes, BENJAMIN JONES SPEAKING spans 40 years of making art including fresh work never seen before.

Jones continues to hone his distinct visual language as a thought-provoking force for change. “I want people to feel the rage and to fight injustice in today’s crazy world,” Jones says. “The drawings are my way of screaming out, hoping to make another person speak out, and then another.”

As a keen observer of current events, Benjamin Jones keeps intricate journals. He mines images clipped from magazines, newspapers and his travels, then recycles this source material into his drawings.

Parallels have been drawn between Jones’ work and graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, painter and sculptor Jean Dubuffet and young Pablo Picasso. Each influence gave Jones new tools to break the rules and discover a visual voice undeniably his own.

Mixing whimsy with horror, humor with malevolence, Jones’ haunting creatures speak to life’s paradoxes and struggles, compelled by the artist’s internal urgency.

Inhabiting an intriguing, indefinable space, each poignant portrait reveals a glimpse of Benjamin Jones’ own innermost feelings and insecurities, while touching a familiar place in all of us.

Barbara Archer, Exhibition Curator
and Lisa Frank/Frank Relations



**MOCA
CA**