

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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From: Mindy Solomon Gallery

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It's Bart's World... and We Just Live In It!

My first encounter with the work of Bart Johnson came in the form of a simple vase. The shape itself was nothing unusual, however the drawings that embellished the surface were so bold and full of narrative personality, I could not stop studying it; I admired the intricacies of the story unfolding at every angle. Each character had an unearthly quality - part creature, part human - but completely expressed in a way that spoke of unknown terrors and emotion. I felt compelled to know more about his art.

It wasn't easy to locate him as he operates under the radar, but I suspect after this exhibition his obscurity will be somewhat lessened amongst those that value pure artistry and narrative visual storytelling. He is an artist's artist who can create images on any surface. His intellect and intuitive nature knows no bounds; he is unencumbered by traditions and the status quo. Johnson is one of the most intelligent and inquisitive artists I have met. He is an avid reader on a wide range of subjects and is extremely sensitive as well as deeply private; he is a visionary who is compelled to work long hours daily.

Our first conversation lasted more than two hours. We discussed dreams and fantasy. I referenced Bosch and Brueghel, the completeness of their worlds on the two dimensional surface, the evidence of good and evil played out in a myriad of characters that only pretend to be people. Bart discussed his art historical references coupled with a highly refined aesthetic bordering on obsessive. Bart doesn't sleep much. His studio is a wonderland of art; flat files crammed with drawings, stacks of paintings, and shelves of sculpture, magnificently inventive and playful. Johnson doesn't view himself as a ceramic artist, rather, a person who uses clay as a vehicle to tell his ongoing personal experiences. It is Bart's world, or rather, the world according to Bart.

Mindy Solomon, Curator

February 20 - March 27, 2010

The World According to Bart

The Drawings, Paintings, and Ceramics of Bart Johnson

OPENING RECEPTION:

February 20, 2010

Reception 6:30-8:30 pm

"Lucid Dreaming" an Artist's Talk and Portfolio Discussion with Bart Johnson

February 21, 2010 12-1:30 pm

Join artist Bart Johnson for an informal gathering at the Mindy Solomon Gallery Sunday, February 21st from 12-1:30 pm. Bart will discuss his art making techniques. Student participants are encouraged to bring a piece of work to share. Bart will facilitate a critique and review of the work. There is no charge for the event but reservations are required. Limited spots available. rsvp by 2/18 to info@mindysolomon.com

**Mindy Solomon Gallery
124 2nd Ave NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701**

Wednesday - Saturday: 11 am – 5 pm
Sunday & Monday: Closed
Tuesday: By appointment

www.mindysolomon.com

727.502.0852
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COMING Up at Mindy Solomon Gallery :

April 3 - May 15, 2010

Bright and White:

John Byrd, Linda Cordell, Bethany Krull, Russell Biles,
and Jason Briggs
Jeremy Chandler photography and Roger Palmer drawings

May 22 - June 26, 2010

Alternative Universe:

Richard Heipp (2-D), Rebekah Bogard and Max Lehman

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NOTE: High Resolution Images are available at: <http://www.mindysolomon.com/press.php>