Seeing Voices: Contemporary Drawings
Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, November 8th through December 13th, 2013

This drawing exhibit brings together nine artists who often create works on paper. Each of the artist’s work has a unique voice and the intent is to present an exhibition that explores the breadth of these drawing experiences. Some of the artists opt to work in black and white while others expressively explore color. The works in the exhibit often provide an interesting exploration of surface, observations of the tactile and subtle qualities of materials, and the use of drawing as a narrative storytelling device. The effect of scale is often an important consideration in the process of making art often determining the overall effectiveness of the finished piece. Some of the works are small and intimate while others are larger and more confrontational. The open landscape is important is some works while figures and interiors loom in others. There is an almost microscopic attention to detail found in some works while other artists combine mediums in ways that seem to reinvent beauty. The numerous creative decisions seen in the works often extend boundaries and alter the language of drawing.

Whether it is drawing from observation, seeking to provide social commentary, or using improvisational techniques during the drawing process that accentuate the impact of the work, these works convey the rich commitment of the artists involved in their art. Film and photography are influential in some of the work. Other works display playfulness, openness, and an even vulnerable side of the artist.

The purpose of this drawing exhibit is to show highlight quality work. Drawings were selected that display a range of visual thinking, and diversity of intent and result. The willingness for the artists to participate is exciting and will be influential to many students who visit the gallery. Some of the artists have a connection, either past or present to UNLV. A few participants will be exhibiting locally for the first time. As we plan and curate future exhibitions for students, faculty, and community to visit, our hope is that this exhibition serves as a model for reaching out to some of the most intriguing and disciplined artists working today. Thanks to the many artists involved and The Nancy Hoffman Gallery for helping with the exhibit. Jennifer Wynne Reeves will be part of Fall Lecture Series this year. Karen Baldner will visit in the Spring Semester to present a workshop and discuss her work.

Jeff Burden,
Professor of Art
UNLV
Curator

Cover: Jim Sullivan, Untitled #35, 2010, Graphite on paper, 30 x 20 ½ in.
Aaron Shepard, Snail Spittoon, mixed media, 20 x 19 x 5
Karen Baldner, Buddha Taking a Smoke, charcoal on handmade paper, 70 x 60
Fay Ku, Bound,
graphite, watercolor, ink, gouache, shellac-based ink on ivory Fabriana Rosaspina, 27 1/2 x 39
John Rappleye, Ocean Blue, acrylic and spray enamel, 48 x 41
Jennifer Wynn Reeves, Fire, Fall, Flight, Forward, mixed media, 12½ x 15½
Jeff Burden, Bitches Brew, graphite on board, 40 x 60
Bill Richards, Milkweed and Branches, graphite on paper, 18 1/4 x 22
Don Eddy, *Blue Harvest*, colored pencil on paper, 8 inches in diameter
Jim Sullivan, Untitled #33, graphite on paper, 30 x 22 1/2