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GEORGE HERMS: Lymphatic Vessels and Monoprints celebrating the life and art of Bruce Conner

16 October 2008 - 15 November 2008

Susan Inglett Gallery is pleased to present the work of George Herms, "Lymphatic Vessels and Monoprints celebrating the life and art of Bruce Conner." A reception for the artist will be held Thursday evening 16 October 2008 from 6 to 8 PM.

George Herms was a poet living in Los Angeles. In the mid-Fifties when asked to read one of these poems in public, he was so overtaken by stage fright that he became a sculptor. Herms began to make objects on which to mount his poems so they might be exhibited rather than read. The process of writing and art making were remarkably similar in Herms's mind. Cobbling together bits and pieces of little value or meaning on their own, he created an eloquent whole and a singular voice.

George Herms was a founding member of the California assemblage movement and is one of America's great artists. Wallace Berman, Ed Kienholz, William Burroughs, Jack Kerouac and Lawrence Ferlinghetti numbered among his friends and peers. Bruce Conner called him a "spontaneous genius". The materials of Herms's art are not beautiful or rare on their own. They are the refuse of our civilization which are redeemed in Herms's hands, as are we. Asked to consider a rusted bit of twisted metal or the burnished leather of an ancient camera case, we can't help but turn a fresh eye to our world with renewed attention and appreciation.

George Herms made his first solo exhibition in 1957, a half decade later he continues to make transformative works of art and writing. Having recently completed a free jazz Opera, "The Artist's Life", Herms was inspired to make this series of monoprints using the original score as his template. Here the monoprints are accompanied by sculptures, or lymphatic vessels. Act I of the Opera is set in the Artist's studio. These lymphatic vessels serve as props, perhaps. The late Bruce Conner is present, certainly.

The exhibition will be on view at Susan Inglett Gallery located at 522 West 24th Street Tuesday to Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM. For additional information please contact Susan Inglett Gallery at 212.647.9111, fax 212.647.9333 or info@inglettgallery.com.

Susan :

The MONOPRINTS come out of the
score for the opera.
"THE ARTIST'S LIFE"
a free jazzy opera
I've been working on it for a few
years.

ACT ONE

Takes place (where we are)
in a sculptor's studio

On a sphere :
On a sphere
8000 miles diameter
Sun energy source 92 million miles
away
next nearest source
100 times further
2 1/2 years in coming
Now traveling 60,000 miles per hour
around sun
each minute we spin at 100 miles
per hour
and ZIP in orbit 1000 miles
per hour

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

The fleet of
Lymphatic Vessels
came out
of the womb of art
Found object sculptures
wood, rusted metal
I make a case for
camera cases (leather)

The missing link
between Monoprints and
Lymphatic Vessels :
found object esthetic
applied to the score
for the opera
Beach combing
the alphabet

The celebration of life and art
of Bruce Conner is in the
photosynthesis on a sphere
story.
An obsolete definition of lymphatic
is "a mad enthusiast"
and
the idea of visual glossolalia
in the monoprints and score
for the opera.

Yours,
George

P.S. Will bring the 30 page version with me.