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INTERNATIONAL EDITION



# THE ART NEWSPAPER

UMBERTO ALLEMANDI & CO. PUBLISHING, LONDON

EVENTS, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS MONTHLY

EST. 1983, VOL. XI, NO. 103, MAY 2000 \$7.50 / Can \$8.95

## The artists

### Jim Nutt

Jim Nutt, sixty-one, is an artist who represents Chicago past and present. His paintings from the 1960s were on view this spring at the Chicago Cultural Center's largest retrospective and portrait drawing from 1966, "Showering for sleep," is currently on view in the Museum of Contemporary Art's exhibition, "Drawing on the figure: work on paper of the 1960s from the Warshaw Collection."



In the installation of the permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, a section called "Modernist style despite their emotion" is showing a 1969 painting by Nutt called "Wink." Nutt said he was delighted to be included in that section—no surprise, since his work tends to be interpreted as cultural cartoons, featuring iconic, grotesque figures, whose body parts often reference photo iconography. Body parts and shapes are often repeated in the margins as faces. A Nutt cartoon, "Blackness," always depicts faces that are prototypical of a 1960s "Jazzop Jack" (Nutt's original image of a black man) or earlier this spring at the Chicago Cultural Center. Nutt has never worked in New York City, although his works on paper are sold there now by Newland-Derman Gallery. "I don't need the art scene to keep myself motivated. I just need to be by myself," said Nutt, an art gallery executive among artists who has proved to be a successful photographer on the links with social media. But although Nutt has been outside Chicago, he is one of many local artists who feel that with the city's contribution.

"In the meantime, they're doing everything except what's happening in Chicago," Nutt complains. "The best thing about Jim Nutt is the abundance of young people making art, looking out of the window at

schools, principally the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Illinois State Campus. I think there's a lot more commercialization today than there was in our generation. What's troubling me is that some galleries for younger artists have left—10 in 1 and 1/2 million, for example. Whether that's a reflection of not having the collectors at that level or whether they would rather buy something from a New York dealer like a Chicago dealer, it's an indicator of the regional mentality that's very intransigent," he laments.

### Inigo Manglano-Ovalle

What could be more Chicago-centered than Inigo Manglano-Ovalle's installation "To taste the kiss," in which the Madrid-born artist videotapes himself washing the windows of the Miss van der Biele Frenchworth House, a Chicago industrial landmark in glass.

A young woman wearing her hair in a bun stands on the other side of the glass wall from the window-washer. The viewer hears the amplified sound of the squeegee as a loud hissing noise. Among the many subjects suggested are the messages that modernist architecture (and Chicago) are universal, cold, and unfeeling. Once again, a Chicago artist references himself from the city. Manglano-Ovalle (b. 1961) is shown in Chicago at Rose Hill Gallery and in New York his work is on view at a New Project, "La Belle et le Bois," was acquired before for himself at the Whitney by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.



### Christina Ramberg

In the 1970s, Christina Ramberg painted sections of women's bodies, based and constructed in a way that anticipated the exploration of the female body by women artists in the late 1960s and 1970s. The shading and volumetric cylindrical body parts of Ramberg's work suggest the influence of Fernand Léger, the cartoonish shapes drawn by Art, comic books, and a Warhol-esque parody of advertising images.

The sectioning of the figure also comments on advertising's mechanical repetition of the ideal woman's shape: a practice that identifies and binds women, the pictures suggest. In its content, Ramberg's work stands apart from the numerous later art of such of the largest work produced mostly by men in Chicago in the 1960s and 1970s. Three hundred and fifty sketchbook drawings, along with a small body of paintings, were among her things after she died in 1996. The drawings are being shown for the first time at Gallery 400 in the University of Illinois at Chicago. "It was a treasure. I had no idea it would be so rich," says curator Judith Reed Keyser, who calls Ramberg president, and links her to the work of Kay Rosen and Kate Smith. Ramberg's paintings were presented at the Renaissance Society in the University of Chicago in 1988. Gallery 400 will publish an extensive catalogue of the drawings when the exhibition opens on 3 May and other venues are planned for the show.



## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

Art Institute of Chicago 111 South Michigan Avenue Chicago IL 60603-6100 tel +1 312 467 2000 fax +1 312 467 0800

Focus: **Walter Dillman 1904-1970** 10 May-13 Jun

Crossing the line: **photography reconsidered** 10 Jun-1 Jan

The Wexler Center: **Art 1917-20** 10 Jun-20 Jul

Museum to Museum: **The Millennium Gift of Sara Lee Corporation** 10 Jun-20 May

Illinois: **The Transformation of a City** 10 Jun-20 Jul

Malvern to Milwaukee: **The Beegonia Collection** 10 Jun-20 Jul

Chicago Cultural Center 16 East Washington Street Chicago IL 60602-2600 tel +1 312 744 8000 fax +1 312 744 3000

Art of Life: **drawings by Illinois Artists** 10 Jun-20 Aug

Art of Life: **contemporary "Up" art** 10 Jun-20 Jun

As work: **Irwin Krawec, 1917-2000** 13 May-9 Jun

Age of Influence: **Reflections in the Mirror of American Culture** 10 Jun-20 Jun

Alexander Calder in Focus 10 Jun-20 Jun

Pierre Huyghe: **Blanche Neige Lucie** 10 Jun-20 Jun

Drawing on the Figure: **Works from the Maxwell Collection** 10 Jun-20 Jun

Walk Out, Works by Yoshitomo Nara 10 Jun-20 Jun

Best Street 10 Jun-20 Jun

Museum of Contemporary Photography Columbia College Chicago Chicago 60605-1906 tel +1 312 922 3334 fax +1 312 929 9007

Group show of photography: **John Boveis, Angela Greenblatt, Katherine Kozay, Andrea Miller-Patke, Terrie Smith** 10 Jun

Renaissance Society University of Chicago Chicago IL 60607-2600 tel +1 773 932 9670 fax +1 773 752 9668

From West: **Pre-occupation and the Everyday, New sculpture and collage work**, the latter entitled "Voyagers" a conceptual design for a hypothetical national Archive exhibit 11 May-20 Jun

Smart Museum of Art The University of Chicago Chicago IL 60607 tel +1 312 752 8000 fax +1 312 752 9101

Focus: **Journeys: Christian Donaldson Art** 10 Jun-10 Sep