

TopSpin
Artists of Western New York and Beyond

Robert Lynch

Drink Orange Juice and Hang Out with the Horses

May 4 - September 16, 2007

Opening reception with artist's talk: First Friday, May 4, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



robertlynch



Born to Loose, 2006, oil and acrylic on board, 24 x 24 in.

Artists Statement

I bring a sketchbook to the cinema.

I drive with a Playskool tape recorder.

I sleep next to a stack of Post-it notes.

I record the strange little enigmas that capture my attention as I go through my days. Those notes become food for paintings that point to an absurd, beautiful



existence. I wanted this recent batch of paintings to be filled with a curious mix of delightful highs and heavy lows. I want viewers to chuckle

and then stare quietly. I don't want my works to be preachy. In fact, I'm happiest with a painting when it takes on a life of its own and baffles me. I like to see them over the years and notice my reaction change. I like to gaze at them and wonder, almost like "people watching."

I like the ridiculous.

I like the bittersweet.

I like the ambiguous.

My decisions as a painter are guided by many quotes that I've collected during my education. I always liked Jasper Johns' idea, "An artist works from rather stupid impulses and then the work is used," and Robert Rauschenberg's "If the work can't be as fresh and as strange as everything that is going on around you, then it is false."



Caffeine, Every Morn, 2006, oil and acrylic on board, 24 x 24 in. Collection of Carey Maines, Buffalo, NY.



Four Page Letter, 2006, oil and acrylic on board, 24 x 24 in. Collection of Carey Maines, Buffalo, NY.



Know It All, 2006, oil and acrylic on board, 24 x 24 in.



I Still Carry You Around, 2006, oil and acrylic on board, 24 x 24 in. Collection of Ron and Michelle Kowalewski, Buffalo, NY.



Little Sugar Ray, 2006, oil and acrylic on board, 24 x 24 in.



Igor vs. Tiffany, 2006, oil and acrylic on board, 24 x 24 in.

Robert Lynch *Drink Orange Juice and Hang Out with the Horses*

Robert Lynch's work takes on the unique illustrative qualities of a 1970s young adult encyclopedia, pulp mystery novels, and chic applications of lush color and mark-making. His innate



ability to combine a myriad of portraits, figures, colors, and stylized text into surprising narratives elevates this exhibition from a visual display of random images to a celebration of cohesive themes.

Lynch's serendipitous approach to image making is apparent in his ambiguous juxtapositions of objects, in a search for what he calls, "the mystery of it all." His sources are primarily culled from endless Google searches that stir his imagination. If the subject of "apple" is searched, he offers as an example, "the expected image of an apple appears but also

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a string of images titled "apple" appear as well," leading him from a plump, red apple—to pets and people named Apple—to the Apple computer—to pod watches." Even the title of the exhibition, "Drink Orange Juice and Hang Out with the Horses," comes from a friend's internet blog. The title is also a nod to one of Lynch's mentors,

Joseph Piccillo, who told the younger artist that he [Piccillo] chose the horse as his visual mainstay because "he saw a picture of it sitting there, and it just struck him that there was something powerful and odd about it."

For Lynch, the narrative quality of a work is further obscured or illuminated through captivating titles. *Caffeine*, *Every Morn* or *I Still Carry You Around* conjures up the cultural attaché of daily activities, nostalgia for the past, or other emotions. "I think that the process of choosing titles is a lot like choosing images," Lynch explains. "You know you need to add something so you keep your eyes and ears open, find lots of options, and go with what feels right. It need not be all too illustrative—just enough to offer a hint."



Michael J. Beam, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections

Born in 1974, in Niagara Falls, New York, Robert Lynch moved to Buffalo in 1992 to attend Buffalo State College. While in college, he developed a reputation as an inspired and versatile painter. After earning his Bachelors in Art Education, with a Minor in Art Therapy, Lynch taught fine arts at various Western New York institutions, including Lewiston-Porter High School, ArtPark, Albright-Knox Art Gallery and Buffalo Arts Studio. He currently teaches art at Niagara Falls High School. A contributing reviewer for the *Buffalo News*, Lynch went on to earn his Masters of Science degree in Multidisciplinary Studies at Buffalo State College.

In addition to his visual arts career, Lynch is also a celebrated musician. He has worked with numerous international recording artists, such as Ani DiFranco, Peter Case, 10,000 Maniacs founders John and Mary, and Rex Hobart. Lynch maintains a busy recording and performance schedule that includes a weekly Bluegrass show with guitarist Doug Yeomans and a weekly soul jazz matinee with organist Ronnie Davis.

He has released two solo double discs of "bittersweet art pop" – *Gift Songs from a Lovely, Puzzling Sea* (2006) and *Welcome to Sound* (2002), of which *Buffalo News* music critic Jeff Miers said, "One of the best releases of the year, period. Stunning." He is the recipient the Best Drummer Award (Buffalo Music Awards) and was voted Best Drummer, Best Painter, and Best Musician by *ArtVoice* magazine. He also placed first in the Late Night with Conan O'Brien College Music Search. Lynch's paintings are included in the permanent collections of the Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Buffalo, the Hard Rock Café, and the Niagara Aquarium, both in Niagara Falls. His work is held in numerous private collections nationwide.

EDUCATION

2005 Master of Science, Multidisciplinary Studies, SUNY College at Buffalo

1997 Bachelor of Science, Art Education, Minor in Art Therapy, SUNY College at Buffalo

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2003-Present Art and Music Critic, *Buffalo News*, Buffalo, NY

2002-Present Painting Instructor, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY

2001 Committee for Education, Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY

Visiting Artist, Fredonia Summer Arts Enrichment Program, Fredonia, NY

2000 Artist in Residence, Mono-printing Workshop, Artpark, Lewiston, NY

1998-Present Art Educator, Niagara Falls High School, Niagara Falls, NY

1997 Art with Artists, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, NY

RECENT SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2007 49th International Award Exhibition, San Diego Art Institute, San Diego, CA

2006 Music is Art, Buffalo, NY

Recent Work, Betty's, Buffalo, NY

2005 Resident Artist Exhibition – *Trimania*, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY

2004 New York Collects Buffalo State, Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY

Secrets that Objects Share, Art Dialogue Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Dimensions 2004, Associated Artists, Winston-Salem, NC

2003 Rob Lynch and Matthew SaGurney, The Solo Roths, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY

From Brutal Tragic to Funny Cute, Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, Niagara Falls, NY

2002 Resident Artist Exhibition – *Trimania*, Buffalo Arts Studio, Buffalo, NY

The Ice House, Niagara County Community College Video Festival, Sanborn, NY

2001 Members Exhibition, Big Orbit Gallery, Buffalo, NY

2000 9th Annual Regional Exhibition, Art Dialogue Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Beginning a New Century: Emerging Artists in Western New York, Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY

Emerging Artists, the Joy Gallery, Buffalo, NY

The Greatbatch Exhibition, Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY

Recent Paintings, Spot Coffee, Buffalo, NY

SELECTED AWARDS

2003 First Place, Still Life-The Secrets That Objects Share, Art Dialogue Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Painting Award, Best of Buffalo, *Artvoice*, NY

1999 Artist in Residence, Artpark, Lewiston, NY

1997 Art Education Faculty Award for Painting, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY (also 1995, 1996)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2005 "Making the Case," *Gusto, Buffalo News*, October 7, p. 29.

"Ramblin' Wrecks," *Gusto, Buffalo News*, September 9, p. 22.

2004 Exhibition Catalogue, New York Collects Buffalo State, Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY

"Art Stars and Their Boosters at Buff State," *Artvoice*, August 12, p. 16.

2003 "Wild Life," *Gusto Buffalo News*, May 16, 2003, p. 22.

"It's Only Rock and Roll," *Buffalo News*, March 25, 2003, p. D-5.

"In Earnest," *Night and Day*, July 3, 2003.

"Complexity, Humor Link Two Local Artists," *Night & Day*, June 5, 2003, p. 3.

"Fun with Chemistry," *Gusto - Buffalo News*, June 27, 2003, p. 20.

2002 "Open to Interpretation?," *Niagara Gazette*, August 15, 2002, p. 10.

"Sounds of the City," *Gusto - Buffalo News*, November 22, 2002, p. 17.

2001 "Art and Craft," *Gusto - Buffalo News*.

"Finishing Touches," *Niagara Gazette*, November 8, 2001, p. 8A.

2000 "The New Mudtown Robby" *Gusto - Buffalo News*, February 11, 2000, p. 14.

Herd about Buffalo Commemorative Book, Roswell Park Alliance Foundation, Buffalo, NY

1999 Exhibition Catalogue, Beginning a New Century, Emerging Artists in Western New York, Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY

SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Art Education Department, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY

Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY

LeeAnn Catanzaro, Buffalo, NY

Robert Freeland, Buffalo, NY

Kate Hartman, Buffalo, NY

Lin Xia Jiang, Buffalo, NY

Gerald Mead, Jr., Buffalo, NY

Matthew SaGurney, Buffalo, NY

John Siskar, Hamburg, NY

Robbie Tacak, Buffalo, NY

Nancy Weekly, Kenmore, NY

Carey Maines, Buffalo, NY

The museum's Tops Gallery – long dedicated to the exhibition of work by local and regional artists – now presents the **TopSpin** series. This juried series of solo exhibitions draws from the richly diverse work of WNY artists, as well as that of artists beyond the region. **TopSpin** will feature a broad range of visual expressions, varied in media as well as message.

TopSpin is made possible through the generous support of Tops Markets, LLC.

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