

DEGREES OF ABSENCE
JO SMAIL



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NOVEMBER 18, 2011 – JANUARY 10, 2012

"It is that sort of movable reciprocity between existence and inexistence ... [It] is very different from the question in Hamlet. It is not 'to be or not to be,' it is 'to be and not to be.'"

~Alain Badiou

"The 'white spaces' indeed take on importance ... like silence around ... nothing or almost an art."

~Mallarmé

between silence and various degrees of presence (with flavors of awkwardness, humor, sex, metaphysics and poetry)

using collage to render emphatically
a here-ness (or body)

startle with faint sighs (like trying to say love)
against a laugh and all the noises in between

"We need to remember the value of nothing. It's like breathing: you can't inhale all day."

~Sam Anderson

JO SMAIL

2011

Figure in Stripes Bird Watching

2011

oil, acrylic, masking tape and collage on canvas

50 x 40 inches

Bird

2011

felt pen, oil and collage on canvas

11 x 9.5 inches



Aversion to Hyperbole

2011

oil, acrylic, oil stick and collage on canvas

24 x 20 inches



A Supreme Conjunction with Probability

2011

oil, acrylic, wax paper and collage on canvas

24 x 18 inches



Studio Photograph
Works from the series:
Public / Private
2011



Public / Private

Originated from photographs I took of centuries old Florentine walls (including more recent graffiti), pavements, streets, manhole covers, cobblestone squares and floors of churches. I determine to adhere to our grandmother's and mother's motto "waste not want not." Using inherited items, I glue, patch, measure, mark, decorate, fasten, mimic, pin, stitch, recycle ... and in doing so, I smile, dedicate and remember.

Jo Smail
2011

Scent of Melons

2011

enamel, oil, acrylic and collage on canvas

70 x 60 inches



Lavender Lush

2011

oil and collage on canvas

50 x 40 inches



JO SMAIL**BORN**

1943 Durban, South Africa

EDUCATION

1978 NHDAD. Johannesburg College of Art, Johannesburg, South Africa.

1975 NDAD. Johannesburg College of Art, Johannesburg, South Africa.

1963 BA. University of Natal, Durban, South Africa.

SELECTED PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

USA Embassy, Johannesburg

Chase Manhattan Bank, Johannesburg

Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, NY

Durban Museum and Art Gallery

Gertrude Posel Collection, University of the Witwatersrand

Johannesburg Art Museum

Johannesburg Chamber of Industries

Mobil Corporation

National Gallery of South Africa, Cape Town

Premier Milling Group, Johannesburg

Pretoria Art Museum

University of the Orange Free State

University of South Africa

University of Stellenbosch

University of the Western Cape

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS FROM 2003-2011

2011 *Degrees of Absence*, Goya Contemporary, Baltimore, MD.

2009 *Conjurations*, Goya Contemporary, Baltimore, MD.

2008 *The Limits of Language: A Selection from 10 Years*, McLean Project for the Arts, McLean, VA.

2007 *Species of Love and Angels Footsteps*, Goya Contemporary, Baltimore, MD.

2006 *New Beginnings*, Axis Gallery, New York, NY.

2004 *Degrees of Fluency*, Heriard Cimino Gallery, New Orleans, LA. Curated by Margaret Evangeline.

Rockville Art Place, Rockville, MD.

Goya Contemporary, Baltimore, MD.

2003 Pinkard Gallery, Maryland Insitute College of Art, Baltimore, MD.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS FROM 2003~2011

2011 *Becoming Something Found*, Jolie Laide Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.

Sondheim Semi-Finalists, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD.

Faculty Exhibition, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD.

2010 *The Marks of Six Painters*, Gallery 447, Cambridge, MD.

2008 *Winners of Trawick Prize*, Fraser Gallery, Bethesda, MD.

The Grey House that Thinks Itself into Your Head Without Asking, Fingston Gallery, Pace University, New York, NY.

The Commerce and Culture Series, The Center Club, Baltimore, MD.

2007 *Triangle Alumni DUMBO Arts Festival Exhibition 25*, Brooklyn, NY.

Trawick Prize Finalists, Creative Partners Gallery, Bethesda, MD.

Strictly Painting 6, McLean Project For The Arts, VA. Curated by Kristen Hileman.

2006 *Trawick Prize Finalists*, Creative Partners Gallery, Bethesda, MD.

2005 *Soft Openings*, American University Museum at the Katzen Art Center, Washington, DC.

Critics' Picks: Just Looking, Maryland Art Place, Baltimore, MD.

2004 *Inward Gazes*, Goucher College, Towson, MD.

Trawick Prize Finalists, Creative Partners Gallery, Bethesda, MD.

Prize Winners, Maryland State Arts Council, Baltimore, MD.

2003 *Conversations*, Collaboration with William Kentridge.

-04 Traveling exhibition. Curated by Barry Nemett.

Evergreen House, Baltimore, MD.

Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, Wilmington, DE.

Joseloff Gallery, University of Hartford, Hartford, CO.

Tufts University Gallery, Medford, MA.

Bevier Gallery, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY.

Karl Drerup Gallery, Plymouth State University, NH.

2003 *Breaking New Ground*, The Wyman Arts Center, Baltimore, MD.

Fully Integrated, Degas Gallery, Mclean, VA.

Curated by Y. Chung and Andrea Pollan.

The Fables of La Fontaine. Traveling exhibition.

Curated by Koren Christofides, Ken Tisa, and Robyn Chadwick.

Centre pour l'Art et la Culture, Aix-en-Provence, France.

Exhibition Space of Temple University, Rome, Italy.

The Jacob Lawrence Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

The Meyerhoff Gallery, The Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FROM 2003~2011

2011 Catalog: *Art Collection of the United States Consulate General*, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2010 *At the Galleries* by Karen Wilkin, Hudson Review, VOL. LXII, NO. 4, Winter.

2009 *Waking Up From The Inside Out: Jo Smail 1998-2009*, essays by Terence Maloon and Karen Wilkin, Goya Contemporary, Baltimore, MD.

The Year in Visual Art, Top Ten. Jo Smail, Conjurations at Goya Contemporary, Baltimore City Paper, December 9.

The Fugitive Mark by Bret McCabe, Baltimore City Paper, October 14.

2008 Catalog: *The Limits of Language: A Selection from 10 Years*, text by Nancy Sausser, McLean Project for the Arts, McLean, VA.

2007 *The Searcher* by Deborah McLeod, Baltimore City Paper, October 31.

Baltimore Artist Wins Award by Glenn McNatt, The Baltimore Sun, September 11.

Trawick Prize Winners, Arts Beat by Rachel Beckman, The Washington Post, September 6.

Catalog: *Trawick Prize*.

2006 *Art in Review: Jo Smail* by Holland Cotter, New York Times, February 10.

New Beginnings: Jo Smail (including collaborations with William Kentridge), by Briget Goodbody, Art on Paper, May-June issue.

Around the Galleries, Jo Smail at Axis Gallery, by Karen Wilken, Hudson Review, Summer issue.

Catalog: *Trawick Prize*.

2005 *Jo Smail at Heriard-Cimino* by Susan Elizabeth Ryan, Art in America, May issue.

MAP Show is a Striking Snapshot of Regional Art by Glenn McNatt, The Baltimore Sun, May 5.

Residents In? Just Looking: The 19th Annual Critics' Picks Exhibition by J. Bowers, Baltimore City Paper, April 27.

Jo Smail by Laurie Delk, The New Orleans Art Review, January-February issue.

2004 *Pink Freud* by J. Bowers, Baltimore City Paper, September 29. Catalog: *Trawick Prize*.

2003 *Artistic Give and Take* by Linel Smith, The Baltimore Sun, December 18.

Catalog: *Influence & Collaboration in Contemporary Art*, Evergreen House, Baltimore, MD.

AWARDS

Maryland State Artists Award, 2010

Trawick Prize: Best in Show, Bethesda Contemporary Art Award, 2007

Strictly Painting, McLean Project for the Arts Award, 2007

Maryland State Arts Council, Individual Artist Award (Painting), 2007, 2004, 1995, 1991

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Creative Fellow, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, 2003

Residency, Rochefort-en-Terre, France, 2007, 2003, 2000

Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, 1996-97

Maryland Institute College of Art, Trustees Teaching Award, 1992

Residency Fellowship, Vermont Studio Center, Vermont, 1996, 1994

Triangle Artist's Workshop, Pine Plains, New York, 1989

Cambridge Shirt Award, Art South Africa Today, 1975

Abel Coetzee Award, Johannesburg College of Art, 1975

JO SMAIL is a Professor

at the Maryland Institute College of Art (1988-Present).

Full CV (1974-2009) available in publication

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Goya Contemporary

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