

Woman Made Gallery - 685 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622

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## The Child in You

Group and Solo Exhibitions at WMG

April 6 - May 17, 2007

Opening Reception: April 6

Woman Made Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of "The Child in You" and solo exhibitions by Chicago artists, Roberta Reb Allen and Karen Rechtschaffen. The Artisan Gallery at Woman Made exhibits work in 'Contents Include: Metal Clay.'

Evoking innocence, playfulness, and deceiving simplicity, the works in "The Child in You" create a cohesive look at the relationship between artist and childhood. In the last century, the art world witnessed debates regarding the relationship between art and the work of a child. Alfred Stieglitz exhibited children's drawings at his famous 291 Gallery. Jean Michel Basquiat combined influences of graffiti and popular culture to create works that evoke the feeling of coloring books and sketches made by children. Many contemporary artists push the boundaries of form, line, and content when making art from the point of view of a child. The works included in "The Child in You" demonstrate both literal and conceptual interpretations of childhood.



Roberta Reb Allen, a Chicago artist who served as juror for the exhibition writes, "I was looking for works which captured some aspect of a child's experience without overly revealing the hand or thought processes of the adult artist. There were works which touched on the darker, more confusing and scary side of childhood as well as works which made me laugh out loud in delight. I hope I have succeeded in putting together a show that appeals as much to the child in you as it did to the child in me."

Heather Klinkhamer's *No, I Didn't Eat Your Lipstick* from her SPAZ series recalls a child's fascination with makeup and inculpability. Klinkhamer explains, "The SPAZ series is based on my childhood experiences, mostly humorous. Each painting explores moments of blissful naiveté, in which a child is confident that she has mastered an appropriate way to navigate the world but is grossly mistaken in her calculation. Her brash enthusiasm contrasts with her obvious failure to achieve desired outcomes."

Participating artists include: Pilar Acevedo, Jaime Andersen, Lynda Andrus, Lisa Marie Barber, Mary-Glynn Boies, Ya Ya Chou, Cynthia I. Cloutier, Gail Flack Crandus, Pamela Deitrich, Nitasha Deogun, Jenn DeWald, Jennifer Drucker, Pat Dumas-Hudecki,

Phyllis Edelstein, Tina Marie Garcia, Elizabeth Featherstone Hoff, Sarah Kaiser, Sarah Kargol, Laura Kaufman, Mary King, Karen Klein, Heather Klinkhamer, Elaine Langerman, Sharon Lee, Laura Sherrill Ligon, Rosemary Luckett, Marianne McCarthy, Shervone Neckles, Joline Paulson, Judith Pollock, Shannon Robinson, Carol Ross, Vanessa Shinmoto, Eden Stern, Tamara Tarasiewicz, Pamela Tarbell, Susan Tecktiel, Rachael Van Dyke, Rosalind Faiman Weinberg and Nancy Williams.

The Child in You: <http://womanmade.org/show.html?type=group&gallery=child2007&pic=1>

**In addition to the works selected for “The Child in You,’ the downstairs gallery space at Woman Made will feature solo shows by Chicago artists Roberta Reb Allen(Look at Me) and Karen Rechtschaffen(Primary).**

**Roberta Reb Allen** is a self-taught artist who has experimented with many media and styles and has exhibited works both locally and nationally, but her favorite and most widely exhibited work has been the series of small watercolors which depict a young girl at play which she began over ten years ago.

In creating this series Ms. Allen wants to convey the exuberance and sense of freedom which children find in play. In recreating these feelings from her own childhood experiences, she also wanted to express the unique physical sensations which each different type of play produces. <http://womanmade.org/show.html?type=solo&gallery=allan2007&pic=1>

**Karen Rechtschaffen** is a self-taught artist who gives discarded items a new life. She originally started painting to entertain herself– a pleasant diversion after 30 plus years of direct service and advocacy work. It is her hope that people will enjoy her art, while maybe finding a social or political message worth considering or even embracing.

<http://womanmade.org/show.html?type=solo&gallery=rechtschaffen2007&pic=1>

**The Artisan Gallery at Woman Made features new work in ‘Contents Include: Metal Clay’ with Jackie Truty as the featured artist.** Ms. Truty is joined in the exhibition by Mary Ellin D'Agostino, Carol Hammerman, Julia I. King, Mary Mintich, Gail Mutoza, Elizabeth Parrock, Melisse Reichman, Olga Sanchez and Michela Verani.

<http://womanmade.org/show.html?type=group&gallery=metalclay2007&pic=1>

**An opening reception will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 until 9 p.m. and works will be on display until May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Woman Made Gallery**

**685 N. Milwaukee Ave.**

**Chicago, IL 60622**

**Website:** [www.womanmade.org](http://www.womanmade.org)

**Gallery Hours: Wed-Fri noon-7pm / Sat-Sun noon-4pm / Admission: Free**

Woman Made Gallery is supported in part by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; a CityArts Program II grant from the City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs; the Chicago Community Foundation; the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; the Polk Bros. Foundation; the Hugh M. Hefner Foundation; the Efroymsen Fund, a CICF Fund; and the generosity of its members and contributors.

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