

# LUISE ROSS GALLERY

## For Immediate Release

### *Pretty, Strange*

Visitors to the current group exhibition at Luise Ross Gallery will be treated to viewing art that is sometimes pretty, sometimes strange, but mostly pretty strange. Here is a sampler description of some of the works in the exhibition.

Victor Faccinto's ingeniously produced animated video "Nightmare" is a show stopper, a dark combination of sex and violence, relieved by hilariously ironic humor. This latter ingredient is punctuated by the digital print "Shower After Nightmare," which is also featured on the announcement card for the exhibition. The backroom of the gallery is transformed into a gentler world by an installation created by the Walnut Farms Inter-Species Artists Collective, a group of artists who have been working together since 1967 and come together under various names in response to what it might mean to "Live in Love." Part shrine, part library, the installation features a series of drawings worked on again and again over many years by different artists, and a canoe paddle.

Justen Ladda, dealing both in illusion and allusion, is represented by two magical works in mixed media: a mirror without glass, and a dress without a woman wearing it. The illusory and referential seem to be also the affective force of sculpture by John Newman. In one erotically-charged piece (steel-plaster-red fabric), a gravity-defying female torso—at the same time, swan-like--tethered to a base by a thin rod, hovers gracefully in space. In a large earth-toned landscape painting, the contemporary Australian artist, Ningura Napurrula, pays a poignant homage to her aboriginal female ancestors in their pilgrimages to the sacred sites and their celebration of the mythological rites of the ancient Australian West.

Among gallery regulars, all of whom are represented in the show, John Himmelfarb offers a provocative sculpture of a rather battered, beaten-up truck with noticeably tired tires, seemingly just waiting someplace in early 21<sup>st</sup> century America. But for really strange, hauntingly so, Michael Madore's ink drawing, "assourdissant" ("ear splitting")—of what appears to be the dust-balled tangle of wires wrapped around the surge-protector under everyone's computer—is actually his self-portrait of his head "as giant bat cave *cum* neuro lab, swamped by cortical slices gone wild, auricular clutter (minus the Q-tips), infra-sonic chitchat, and plaintive pleas for quiet."

**Title: *Pretty, Strange***

**Dates: 4 June – 31 July 2009 Opening: 4 June 5:30 – 7:30**

Walter Anderson, Willie Birch, Thomas Burlison, John Dilg, Minnie Evans, Victor Faccinto, Glenn Goldberg, Gail Gregg, John Himmelfarb, Susana Jacobson, Justen Ladda, Michael Madore, China Marks, Thomas Lyon Mills, Ningura Napurrula, John Newman, Gladys Nilsson, Ferdinand Pleines, Frank Rivera, Geneviève Seillé, TL Solien, Bill Traylor, Carlo Zinelli, Walnut Farms Inter-Species Artists Collective