



Bunny, 2006, enamel on linen *Zozo*, 2006, enamel on linen

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE: JOYCE PENSATO

OCTOBER 20 – NOVEMBER 20, 2006

GALLERY HOURS: FRI TO MON 1 TO 7 PM

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY OCTOBER 20, 6 TO 9 PM

Parker's Box is very proud to present *This Must Be The Place*, an exhibition of new works by Joyce Pensato.

After participating in numerous group shows at Parker's Box (including *Tennewpaintings*, *Ecstasy²X3*, and *Phoenix NY*), as well as producing installations for *Parker's International Art Market (IAM5!)*, and her experimental solo photo project: *Wigged and Wild!*, this will be Joyce Pensato's first solo exhibition of new works at the gallery.

Joyce Pensato has become well known for her freshly gestural drawings and paintings of cartoon figures, based on a wide-ranging and motley family of familiar faces mostly drawn from an American roster of well-known characters. The artist's feverish brushstrokes transform, metamorphose, dissect, deconstruct, and analyze her models. Like all good analysts, Joyce Pensato has amassed experience and knowledge from every session spent in the company of her huge collection of long-suffering soft-toy sitters. Thus, her ostensibly lackadaisical, unfettered expressions become evermore knowing and penetrating, and the artist is always able to astonish by surpassing herself with each body of work.

Joyce Pensato has maintained challengingly intimate, long-term relationships with the likes of Mickey Mouse and Donald, for example, with recurringly magnificent results. At the same time, lesser known, and more mysterious characters have cropped up of late, such as *Zozo* (a politically incorrect 1950's French monkey), or the more profoundly enigmatic *Bunny*, exuding inexplicable self-confidence from its impenetrable eyes.

These new portraitees, (like the much-admired *Marsupilami* of 2005), take the work boldly beyond the oft quoted view of Pensato's practice as being symptomatic of a second generation American's love-hate view of the world. Indeed, the children of immigrant paradise-seekers may always have such a caustic and ironic humor about things American- especially when a distant AbEx upbringing is thrown into the mix. But for Pensato, recent secret encounters hosted at her studio between stalwarts like the Simpsons, and unshakeable newcomers like *Bunny*, offer huge swathes of new potential. Here, technique, spontaneity and pure inspiration fuse seamlessly with involuntary insights into philosophy, identity, and existence, all delivered with precision-guided, heat-seeking slaps in the chops. As such, Pensato's new paintings have radical but refined contributions to make to the renewed and renewable debate of current painting- a discipline nonchalantly proving its eternal youthfulness and relevance to contemporary culture, through the work of artists whose practice is as fresh and new and sparkling as that of Ms. Pensato.

Parker's Box will also be presenting Joyce Pensato's work this year at FIAC, Paris, (October 26-30); and Artissima, Turin (November 10-14). Works by the artist are also currently on view at the Grand Palais, Paris, in the exhibition *Il était une fois Walt Disney, aux sources de l'art des studios Disney* (thru January 15, 2007); and at Mother's Tankstation in Dublin, Ireland in the exhibition *Getting on Mother's Nerves – Psychological Drama and contemporary Drawing* (thru December 23, 2006). Joyce Pensato who received the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award in 1997 and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1996, has exhibited at institutions including Fondation d'Art Contemporain Daniel and Florence Guerlain, Les Mesnuls, France; Saint Louis Art Museum with Mike Kelley and Raymond Pettibon; Luhring Augustine, New York with Paul McCarthy and Arnulf Rainer; Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Exit Art, New York. Her work is represented in prestigious public collections such as The Museum of Modern Art, New York; St. Louis Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the City of Paris, France, and the FRAC des Pays de la Loire, France. Joyce Pensato is represented in France by Galerie Anne de Villepoix, Paris, France.

For further information please contact Parker's Box at + 1 718 388 2882 or helianthe@parkersbox.com