

JULIA RANDALL: *BLOWN*

November 14 – December 22, 2012
reception: Thursday, November 15, 6–8 pm

Garvey Simon Art Access is pleased to present an exhibition of new colored pencil drawings by Julia Randall. This is Julia Randall's third solo show in New York and her first at Garvey Simon Art Access.

Julia Randall crafts seductive, hyperrealist drawings that challenge assumptions about corporeality and the natural world. Themes of desire, longing and loss resurface over time in her work. This new series focuses on bubble imagery—mostly chewing gum, blown into bubbles: literal and metaphorical membranes that both separate and unite.

As the artist states: "Bubble gum initially connotes innocent, cheeky pleasure, yet the fragile skin of gum also points to the susceptible human body, and the dreaded passage of time. Bubble gum is an insignificant, disposable material, and the pleasure taken from its flavor is fleeting. The bubble is a vessel that holds our breath, for a brief moment, in a physical form."

This interest in depicting breath, our life force, led her to remove the blown bubbles from her mouth and draw them as objects. Divorced from the mouth and drawn large scale, they transcend graphic confections. They are mysterious and otherworldly, taking on various meanings and connotations of their own—from sexual to alien. They are also very funny. This intersection of the humorous with the grotesque, presented with a meticulous and illusionist technique creates a surreal tension for the viewer.

Aptly titled *Blown*, these drawings evolve out of Randall's previous *Lick Line* series, which featured disembodied mouths, tongues, and saliva bubbles isolated in space. She also revisits the saliva bubble in a few works with new and inventive reflective imagery. With many delicate layers of colored pencil, Randall employs a precise, quasi-scientific method as a way to describe what we ultimately cannot see or hold; it is her ritualized effort to prevent the loss of things that are ultimately elusive and fugitive.

Julia Randall was born in New York City in 1968, and currently lives and works in both New York and rural Connecticut. Solo exhibitions include: Jeff Bailey Gallery, NYC; Esa Jaske Gallery, Sydney, Australia; Walters Hall Gallery, Rutgers University, NJ. Group exhibitions include: *Art On Paper Biennial* at The Weatherspoon Art Museum (concurrent with this show), The Tang Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY Wooster Art Space (curated by Joyce Kozloff), BravinLee Programs, NYC, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA; Morgan Lehman Gallery, NYC.

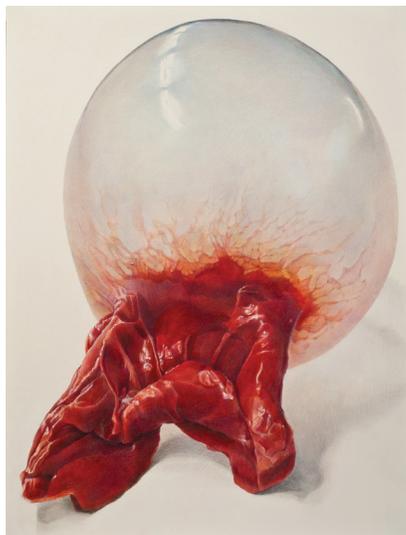
She is the recipient of numerous fellowships and residency awards, such as New York Foundation for the Arts, Skowhegan, Yaddo, and multiple residencies at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France. Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *NY ARTS*, *Art on Paper*, *Flash Art*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *New American Paintings*, *American Artist*, *Beautiful/Decay* and many popular blogs such as Booooooom.com and Flavorwire.

Garvey | Simon is located in Chelsea at 547 West 27th Street, Suite 207, NYC 10001, between 10th and 11th Avenues. Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10am–6pm.

For more information, or high resolution visuals, please contact Elizabeth Garvey 917.796.2146 or liz@gsartaccess.com.



Bubblemouth #2, 2012.
colored pencil on paper, 62 x 45 inches.



Strawberry, 2012.
colored pencil on paper, 24 x 18 inches.