



"Four Heads" 30" x 24" oil on linen, 2008

Billy Reynolds *Ontogenia*

June 28 – July 26, 2008
Reception: Saturday, June 28, 7 – 10 pm

People may not instantly recognize themselves in Billy Reynolds' paintings. His work considers not only the individual but also societies as a whole.

His process is to start with clay models, which he constructs himself. From there he creates realistic oil paintings from direct observation of the models. The paint layering technique is masterful and fresh, and the color is vibrant. Each painting utilizes at most five colors, three of which are always only red, yellow, and blue. He works in series with the models, and progressively alters a model for each new painting, and arrives at a series of paintings this way, from one single manipulated model.

His work searches for the truth in the beautiful, the humorous and the grotesque and finds them only in a commingling of all three. Many of his pieces are reminiscent of a pin up crossed with a crime scene. His paintings challenge the eye as we first notice the beautiful and lush exteriors of the bodies (many of them sprawled out, post-coitally, on unmade beds)--then we take in the interior workings of the body. Our eyes and our mind mix these two together to find the fragile balance between life and death.

His paintings can also be seen as a metaphor for societies--the idea that the outer workings and intention of a society, once cracked open and examined show the human and the inhuman, the astonishing and the absurd.

He finds inspiration from human bodies, and through his work questions whether a complex system of people, organs and society can operate in balance.