

The Drawing Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE DRAWING CENTER ANNOUNCES

Jon Kessler: Works on Paper

Drawing Room

September 14 – October 25, 2007

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 13, 6 – 8 pm

Gallery Talk: Wednesday, September 26, 6:30 pm

New York, July 2007 – The Drawing Center is pleased to present the first exhibition devoted to the drawing-based work of renowned mixed-media sculptor Jon Kessler in the Drawing Room from September 14 through October 25, 2007. Best-known for large-scale kinetic sculptures and installations, Kessler has been exploring the mass media's infatuation with disaster, war, sex, and celebrity through politically charged work since the 1980s. In his new series of drawings, Kessler creates portraits by taking found representations culled from the worlds of fashion, celebrity culture, and contemporary politics and reconfiguring them to reflect on the spectacle of American power and the instant access to images of objectification and violence. Based on the idea of “the portrait as a metaphor for captivity,” Kessler's new body of work confronts the convergence of advertising, propaganda, surveillance, and technology that threatens to undermine democratic politics. This exhibition is curated by João Ribas, Curator, The Drawing Center.



JON KESSLER, *Mob #2*, 2007. Magazines and ink on hand-made paper, 23 x 17 1/2 inches. Produced during the 2007 Dieu Donn e Lab Grant Project.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jon Kessler was born in 1957 in Yonkers NY, and earned his B.F.A from Purchase College, State University of New York, Purchase, NY, in 1980. His work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions at venues including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg, Austria; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX; Kunstverein, Hamburg, Germany; and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, NY. Kessler's work is included in many public and private collections such as The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; The Whitney

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JON KESSLER, *Hanging Blue Man*, 2007. Magazines, ink, and pigmented paper pulp on handmade paper, 30 x 22 inches. Produced during the 2007 Dieu Donn e Lab Grant Project.

Museum of American Art, New York, NY; The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY; The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel; The Saatchi Collection, London, UK; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, CA; and The Deste Collection, Athens, Greece.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

On **Wednesday, September 26 at 6:30 pm**, **Jon Kessler** will speak about the evolution of his work and his new body of drawings in conversation with **Jo o Ribas**. Admission is free.

The Drawing Center is pleased to introduce a new series of **Family Programs** featuring exhibition-related activities designed to engage children and adults in hands-on creative exploration. On **Saturday, October 6 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm**, children ages 9 to 11, accompa-

nied by an adult, are invited to participate in an art-making activity related to *Jon Kessler: Works on Paper*. Family Programs are led by museum educator Wan Ling Fahrer. Admission is free.

PUBLICATION

Jon Kessler: Works on Paper will be accompanied by *Drawing Papers 72*, an artist project entitled *Jon Kessler: You Have 43 Friends*. This eight-page edition of The Drawing Center's publication series features 43 black-and-white images of the artist's imagined myspace.com friends.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm (closed Sundays and Mondays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

CREDITS

The Drawing Center's 2007-2008 exhibitions and programs are made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only fine arts institution in the U.S. to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

www.drawingcenter.org