



GEMINI G.E.L. ^{AT} JONI MOISANT WEYL

JOHN BALDESSARI: *FOOT AND STOCKING (WITH BIG TOE EXPOSED)*



Foot and Stocking (With Big Toe Exposed): Brienne

Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl is pleased to present new works by John Baldessari, on view in the gallery from **October 7 to November 6, 2010**. On **October 14, from 6 – 8pm**, the gallery will host a reception for the artist and a signing of the book *John Baldessari: A Catalogue Raisonné of Prints and Multiples 1971-2007*. This book by Sharon Coplan Hurowitz and published by Hudson Hills Press is the first comprehensive study of Baldessari's print work and multiples.

Titled ***Foot and Stocking (With Big Toe Exposed)***, the six bold and colorful images being exhibited have just been printed and published by the Los Angeles-based artists' workshop, Gemini G.E.L. To begin his work on this series, Baldessari had photographs taken of the bare right foot of several members of his studio staff and then digitally reworked each image by covering the entire foot, except the right big toe, with a black form in the appearance of a sock. The Gemini workshop made print-outs of Baldessari's files to determine the proper scale, and once resolved, Gemini's printers began the lengthy process of making screens and color-proofing each image. Baldessari created a formula for the six colors utilized in the project, selecting three pairings of color that alternate top to bottom. Originally the black area of the foot was simply screenprinted in a semi-gloss black ink, but Baldessari was stimulated by the workshop's enthusiasm to add a textured sock, and several fabrics were auditioned. The final result is a black sock made of laser-cut Cordura, a urethane-coated nylon, applied with a heat-activated adhesive. The exposed toe is also a collaged element – a screenprinted and varnished duplicate toenail, hand-cut and collaged using a pressure sensitive adhesive – and the side edges of the collaged nail are individually hand-painted by the workshop.

John Baldessari is internationally acclaimed and acknowledged as an innovator of Conceptual Art. These dramatic, large-scale (50 x 33 inches) prints are a continuation of Baldessari's exploration of isolated body parts. Through careful manipulation of scale and perspective, Baldessari has created a delightful and intriguing presentation of an otherwise banal subject, and has titled each to correspond with his studio staff-member's name, as if they were portraits. Much like his successful previous *Noses & Ears* series, Baldessari smartly juxtaposes photography and nearly abstract shapes. With *Foot and Stocking (With Big Toe Exposed)*, the viewer is equally seduced by the exposed toenail as by the larger ominous form that has been concealed.

In addition to being on view in the gallery, selections from this series will be presented November 3-7 at The Print Fair, hosted and organized by the International Fine Print Dealers Association and held at The Park Avenue Armory. Furthermore, *Pure Beauty*, a survey of over five decades of John Baldessari's work, will be presented by The Metropolitan Museum of Art from October 20, 2010 through January 9, 2011.

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