

GALLERY

LELA SHIELDS

MARCH 26TH-APRIL 24TH, 2004

RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST

MARCH 26TH 6-8PM

GALLERY HOURS

WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY NOON - 6PM

THE SUITE OF DRAWINGS CREATED FOR THIS EXHIBITION TOUCH US ON THE MOST BASIC LEVEL, THE DRAWING IS INTUITIVE AND INTELLIGENT, WITH SHIELDS'S HAND APPARENT IN EACH PIECE. ONE OF THE GREATEST PLEASURES OF THIS WORK IS ITS HONESTY, THE EMOTIONS IN LELA'S DRAWINGS ARE UNFETTERED AND THE CHARACTERS PURE, MANY OF HER SUBJECTS ARE INFUSED WITH A CHILDLIKE FANTASY AND INNOCENCE: THOUGH THE DRAWINGS ARE COMPLEX, HER SUBJECTS FEEL LOVE, LONLINESS, ANGER, FEAR AND JOY, AS WE CAN ONLY FEEL WHEN WE ARE YOUNG AND OUR EMOTIONS ARE FREE. EVEN HER MOST FRIGHTENING CHARACTERS FEEL AS THOUGH THEY HAVE EMERGED FROM A CHILD'S DREAM.

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE WORK RELIES SOLELY ON EMOTION, THE DRAWINGS ARE WELL THOUGHT OUT WITHOUT BEING SELF-CONSCIOUS, YOU ARE ABLE TO SEE SHIELDS THOUGHT PROCESS WITHOUT IT GETTING IN THE WAY OF HER ARTICULATION OF THE PIECE, WHICH IS FAR TOO UNCOMMON. HER PALETTE IS SIMPLE AND INTELLIGENT, AND HER DECISIONS CLEAR. SHE DECONSTRUCTS HER SUBJECTS WITH A PASSION AND A PURPOSE, UNLIKE MANY ARTISTS WHO CALL A LACK OF TECHNIQUE A STYLE. THE COMBINATION OF EMOTION AND TECHNIQUE FORM A STRONG LANGUAGE IN WHICH SHIELDS IS WELL VERSED.

LELA ATTENDED THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO AND THE CANBERRA SCHOOL OF THE ART IN AUSTRALIA. WORKING IN MULTIPLE MEDIUMS, SHE HAS ENJOYED SOLO EXHIBITIONS IN CHICAGO AND NEW YORK AS WELL AS GROUP EXHIBITIONS IN NEW YORK, TOKYO, SYDNEY AND AUCKLAND.