

PEREGRINEPROGRAM

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Glimmer
ROB BONDGREN

Oct 17 – Nov 13, 2010

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Glimmer

Rob Bondgren

On Rob Bondgren's recent work, or... diamonds are forever.

Precious stones, gems, and jewels are coveted because they are beautiful, rare, and ultimately quite useless. Scarcity is key to degree to which they are valued. To extract even the tiniest drop of these precious materials, the earth has to be worked hard before it gives up its treasures. Motherlodes are the stuff of legend.

Rob Bondgren's recent paintings and collages erupt from such covetousness. He transposes the desire attached to the beautiful and the rare to the men, and parts of men, that feature in his imagery. They become jewels themselves, and Bondgren's often faceless objects of desire revel in their useless beauty even as these images urge us to see how dehumanizing such objectification can be. In turn, this association reveals the pearl drops, the bangles, the chokers, and the diamond studs, as well, to be corporeal, sexual, and pliant. Men and gems slide into each other in these works, all tied together in the discoball rays and kaleidoscope colors that flood the images. He seems to have used every hue, over-adorning his paintings with color after color. As with gems and jewels, too much can still be never enough. Bondgren has embraced this excess at heart of his imagery, covering his paintings with veils and rivulets of lurid colors that interpenetrate the images. This, too, he learned from diamonds, which shimmer because of the way they grip and bend light, holding it in. Bondgren's deft use of watercolor and spray paint and his love of translucency found in them a perfect visual analogue. Jewels and gems are the starting point for Bondgren's headlong displays of longing and lust, and he pushes through this imagery to arrive at works that seem, in part, to aspire to Walter Pater's call to "burn always with this hard, gem-like flame."

October 2010

David Getsy, Goldabelle McComb Finn Distinguished Chair in Art History, School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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Rob Bondren was born in Buffalo, New York and grew up in the Finger Lakes area of New York State. He moved to Chicago to attend the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) in 1990 where he received his BFA (1994) and MFA (2002). Bondgren is the Associate Director of SAIC's Continuing Studies department, directing adult and children's programs, and has previously taught at SAIC and Ox-Bow School of Art in Saugatuck, Michigan. His work has been included in exhibitions in the United States and Canada over the past fifteen years and can be found in a number of private collections.

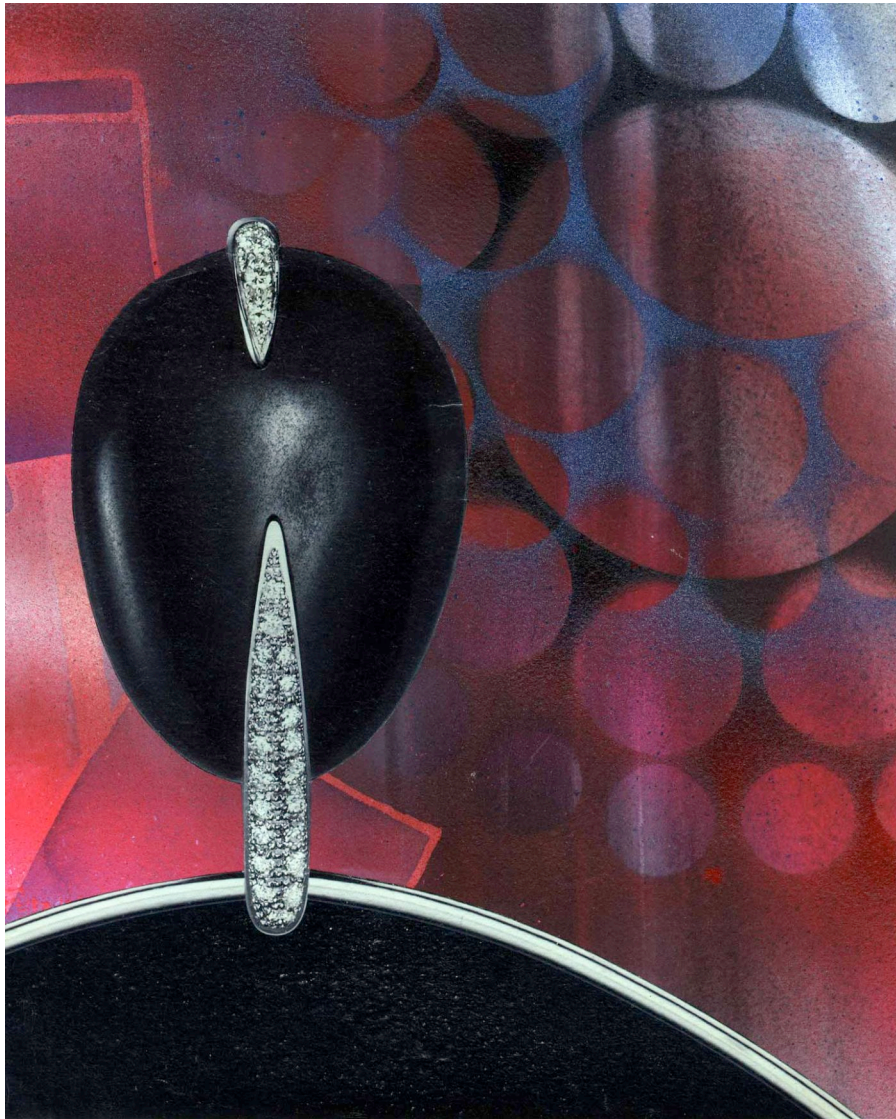
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PEREGRINEPROGRAM presents Rob Bondgren in 'Glimmer' from October 17 - November 13, 2010.

An opening reception will be held Sunday, October 17, from 2-5 p.m.

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Portrait, 2010
Collage, watercolor and spray paint on paper

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Submit, 2010

Collage, watercolor, acrylic, and spray paint on paper

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4 Friends, 2010
Collage, watercolor, spray paint on paper

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Blueballs Invert, 2010
Archival digital print

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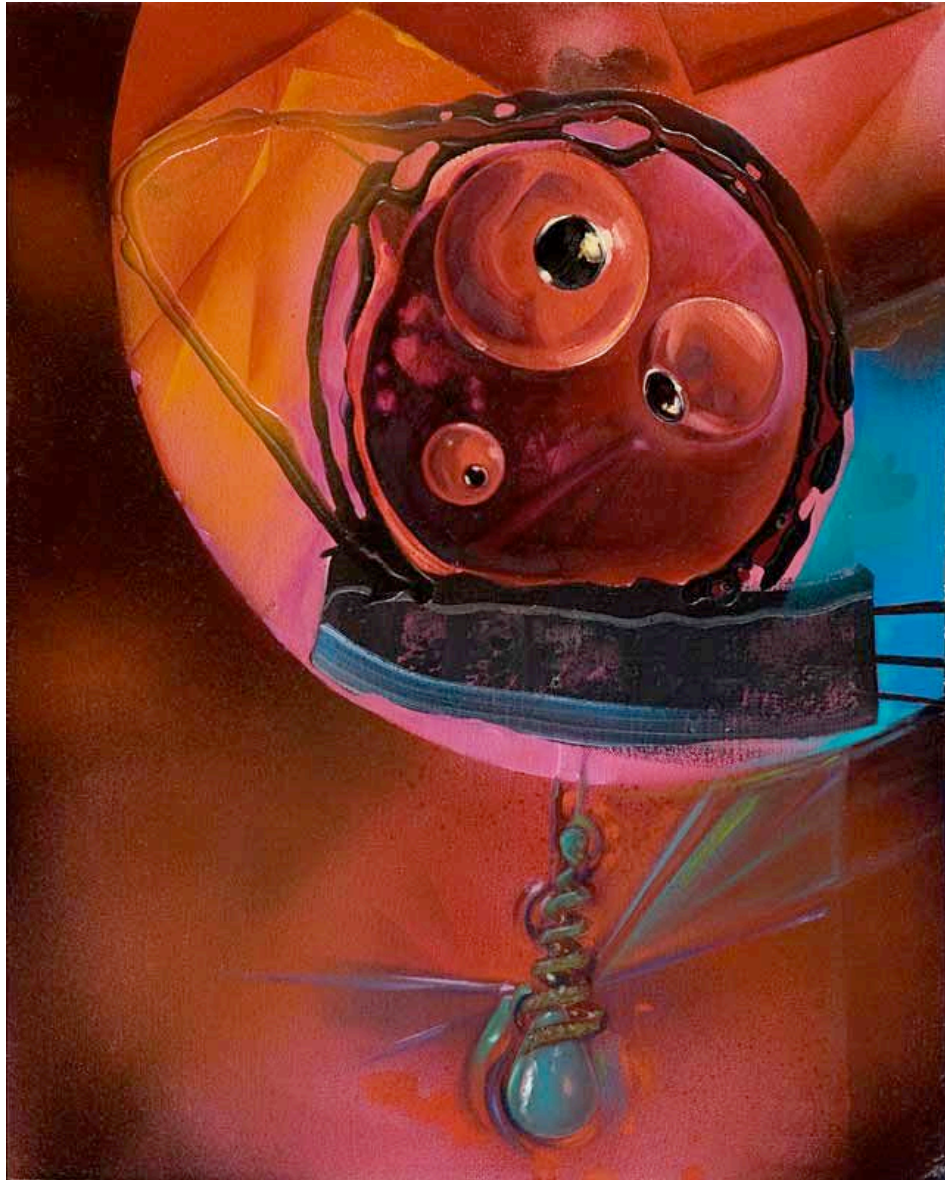
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Trophy, 2009
Watercolor, gouache, and spray paint on paper

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Magnificent Red Balls, 2009
Acrylic, oil, collage and spray paint on canvas

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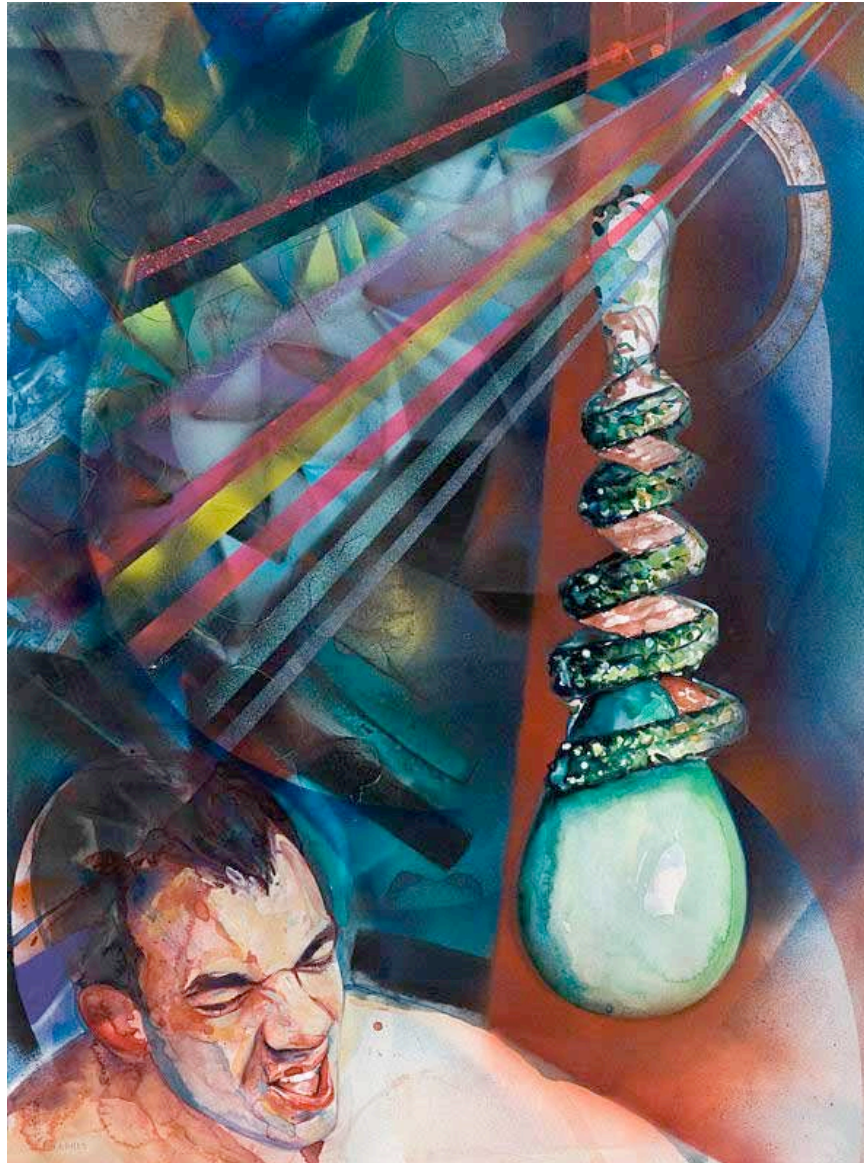


Wet on Wet, 2009

Watercolor, gouache, collage, acrylic ink, and spray paint on paper

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Fine Line, 2009

Watercolor, gouache, collage, acrylic, and spray paint on paper

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Poolboy, 2010
Acrylic, collage, and spray paint on panel