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AUREL SCHMIDT

BURNOUTS

OCTOBER 4, 2007

96 GREENE STREET

Deitch Projects presents a one-night exhibition and book release for a new body of works by Aurel Schmidt. Ms. Schmidt has created thirteen drawings using cigarettes burns, pencil, acrylic, colored pencil, and even blood to create unique and disturbing faces.

In this series, Ms. Schmidt's pieces focus on the gross, neglected, or overlooked objects of daily life; the visceral, the sexual, the shameful and the profane. Using an iconic Mr. Smiley simple face as a jumping-off point, Ms. Schmidt instead makes eyes out of toilet paper rolls, a nose from Band-Aids and blood, or a mouth of discarded banana peel. A bloody tampon delineates the nose of *Pretty*, whose soft blush only throws her red nose into starker relief. *Lynda* is an homage to Lynda Benglis, iconic '80s feminist artist who posed with a big dildo, here grinning a big pink double-dong. *Sniffy's* jaggedly intense grin is explained by the two rolled up bills he has as a nose; *Musk's* bewildered mask of (inferably) odoriferous panties help explain his or her perplexed little gasp of a mouth; an unpleasant cocktail of prescription pills seems to have caused the intense, blank anguish of *Push N Turn's* burned mouth; and *Boo Boo* seems a gung-ho lad who, despite a band-aided bleeding nose, is smiling optimistically.

Aurel has used similar imagery in her previous works of aggregate faces and beings made of junk from the gutter. Archimboldo portraits where instead of vegetables, humans are formed by discarded hamburgers, condoms, used q-tips, maggots, dead birds, lo mein, cocaine, cockroaches, and the grimeiest of New York trash, the *New York Post*. Ranging from as large as a six-foot self-portrait to a six-inch drawing of houseflies, her work takes an unromantic view of nature and couples it with the loving exactitude of an eighteenth-century Naturalist artist.

Born in Kamloops, Canada, this 25-year-old artist is included in the DESTE Museum in Athens' current exhibition, *Fractured Figure*. Aurel's work is also currently on view in *Delirium in Melting*, a solo show at The Gallery at Adventure Ecology HQ in London. She will present her first New York solo exhibition at Deitch Projects next fall.

A catalogue produced by TV Books with support from Deitch Projects will accompany this exhibition with essay by Anne Lesley Selcer.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT JASMINE LEVETT AT
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