

Robert Schultz Drawings: 1990–2007

In his studio overlooking State Street in Madison, Robert Schultz makes exquisite compositions from keen observation. He usually draws the human figure, and uses the simplest of tools—a pencil selected from the bundle he keeps presharpener beside his drafting table. In his hands, simple tools and traditional subject matter result in drawings that blend precision and subtle stylization.

Though the drawings are remarkable for their fidelity, they are far from photographic. Every line of each image is seen and chosen by the artist. For instance, in the areas depicting hair, a close look does not reveal that Schultz has simply made marks corresponding to each hair, but has instead created texture, highlight, and shadow that we readily interpret as hair. Even on close inspection it is often impossible to perceive the individual marks that make up these stunning drawings.

Schultz has been a professional draftsman since he completed his graduate work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1981. His drawing practice has deepened over the years, exploring composition variations, introducing more allusive subjects, and most recently experimenting with silverpoint. This selection brings together work from a nearly twenty year period. Since Schultz sells his work to collectors nationwide, it is a rare opportunity to see an exhibition that traces the development of his art.

This exhibition and its catalogue are supported by Chazen Museum of Art Council, Hilldale Fund, and Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin, Anonymous, Wilmer Anderson, Tim Barr, Jennifer Buxton and Dennis Appleton, Mrs. Ann and Mr. Warren Dailey, Jay Griffin, Koplin Del Rio Gallery, a gift in memory of Dr. Carl H. Landé, Dr. Norman E. Masters, Jr., Charles H. Mottier, Joseph Murphy, Printworks Gallery, Stephen Raffel, John and Helen Rahut Estate, and Willard E. White.