

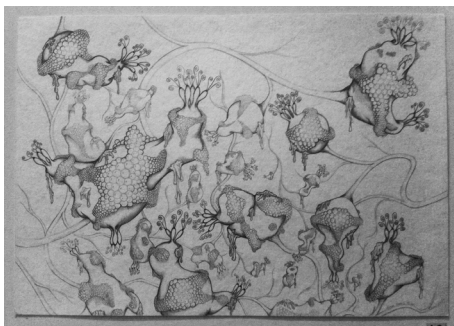
Recently, I wandered down to the dirty south, as I've heard it called, to find myself in Columbia Heights, Washington DC. So I guess it may not REALLY be the dirty south, but I am not accustomed to being beyond the slick superficiality of New York City. I showed up at the Redbat Studios opening of New Beginnings, an exhibition by Samson Huang. Packed full of postmodern surrealist paintings teeming with sensual gesture, the 47 pieces span the artist's life from 2006-2010 as he traveled around Shanghai, Beijing and Singapore staying in airports and hotels. He reflects in his statement that the works are a metaphysical translation of his thoughts and emotions during this time... Hm.



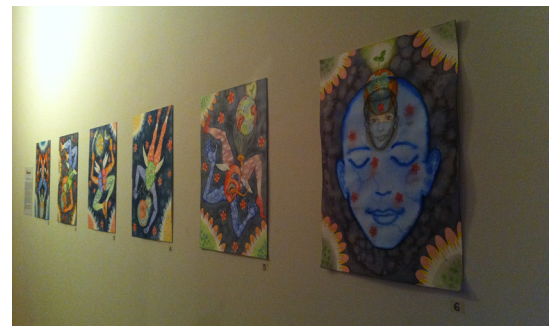
*Cosmic Contraction* (2010)

I don't know about anyone else but when I'm staying in hotels and or busy airports I usually want to strangle the slovenly man next to me, smack the screaming child, or screen the bed sheets for bodily fluids. Regardless of my biases, I was intrigued to see that Huang has a vivid imagination while being stranded in such disparate locations. Although packed full of stylized nudes, I found Huang's non-representational works to be less expected than the human forms. *Cosmic Contraction* (2010) and other works contain similar metaphors of balance, fluidity, tension, and the intermingling of the human condition but allowed the viewer to consider their meaning without being visually told as much.

In this strange setting of hard wood floors and hand-crafted fireplaces with an obtuse funerary vibe the art itself combined with the community to spark rather engaged dialogue. The conversations veered and twisted between art, design, politics, and community building as I stumbled into multiple Rhode Island School of Design Alumni (Eric and David) as well as the critically astute architects Richard Loosle and Janet Bloomberg from Kube Architecture. The instigatory properties of the works and the artist himself generated an aware, engaged audience that is rare to see – even by Chelsea standards. I am excited to see what RedBat Studios does for their next exhibition. Rumors on the street say that it will be a large group exhibition from multiple New York City and Philadelphia based artists.



*Adjusting to the Cultural Change* (14 x 20", Graphite on paper)



*New Beginnings Series* (Watercolor on paper, 2010)

Photo Credit: Wanchuk Topden

