

JAN RINDFLEISCH: DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE: BODY-FIGURES
HELEN EUPHRAT GALLERY, November 6 - December 7, 1979

(c) 1979 Jan Rindfleisch

We shape our art and it shapes us. We create figures to represent the body and those figures alter our understanding of bodies. Jan Rindfleisch explores the impact of images of bodies in Western visual art through her sculpture, drawing and writing.

Working from art-historical sources, Rindfleisch connects tradition to popular imagery and to current myths of men and women. She questions how well our images of bodies reflect true attitudes of culture when many attitudes are never portrayed or exhibited. Noting the political nature of all art, she declares that the presence or absence of certain images affect one's identity, relationships, perception of opportunities and even physical well-being. She writes, "The visual legacies of numerous artists shape our lives. When bodies are considered, the problem is complex because the historical record is bound so closely to our current sexual identity."

She explores the separation of body parts; the portrayal of ideals and the habit of stereotypes; the weight of Bible stories and classical myths; and the tyranny of symbolism.

Rindfleisch approaches these topics as both an artist and art lecturer. Deeply aware of art historical perspectives, she spends time poring over art survey texts and art history books, often making ink line drawings as an archeologist might in depicting a pattern on a shard. The styles she uses vary with the artistic practice or time period being investigated. Her drawings are as simple as possible to convey information about the original art AND to test new images. Unlike an archeologist, she changes or combines old images in new ways, not wanting to propagate those that are overworked, engrained, simplistic or limiting. She feels this is a major challenge; that for example images used to comment on stereotypes can easily transmit dual messages and reinforce those stereotypes.