

TOUCHSTONE GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 10 - November 4, 2007

Jean Sheckler Beebe LOST AND FOUND

**Opening Reception: Friday, October 12, 2007
6 - 8:30 pm**

**Daytime reception: Sunday, October 21, 2007
2 - 5 pm**

Touchstone Gallery announces a solo exhibition by Washington Area Artist Jean Sheckler Beebe. This group of paintings and collages, featuring figurative work completed in the last two years is shown here for the first time. The opening reception will be held on Friday, October 12 from 6 to 8:30 pm with a second, daytime, reception on Sunday, October 21 from 2 to 5 pm.



White Chinos, Acrylic on canvas, 36x48

Both metaphoric and descriptive, Lost and Found refers to the message as well as the medium in Beebe's new work. Inviting a look through time to the supposed innocence of childhood, her portraits and figures are ambiguous snapshots of youth foreshadowing adulthood, complete with emotional baggage in tow. To Beebe, childhood is not so much about innocence or freedom but rather a gathering place for personality traits to be tried on and tested towards maturity. Beebe is intrigued by the notion of choice in forming an identity and gleefully mines the tension between persona and personality.

Working in acrylic and collage, Beebe's paintings individually capture a personality and are each painted in a manner to uniquely show it off. Her pieces always require a closer look to discover what lies lost and buried in the layers beneath the surface paint. Both the loud personalities and the quiet ones ask for a second look to reveal their secrets and see what can be found.

Jean Sheckler Beebe received an MA at SDSU in literature and education. She has been the recipient of a DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities Purchase Award and has had solo shows in Kentucky, Virginia, and Washington DC. Beebe's art studies have been self directed. She lives and works in northern Virginia.