



JOHN JAY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
presents
CHARLOTTA JANSSEN: FREEDOM RIDERS AND BUS BOYCOTTERS
January 28th to March 26th 2010
6th floor President's Gallery
899 Tenth Avenue
New York, NY 10019

This event is co-sponsored by the Office of the President and the Art & Music Department
who invite you to celebrate this exhibition with an artist's reception
Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010 from 5-7 PM

"Freedom Riders and Bus Boycotters" by artist Charlotta Janssen is a series of portraits painted from mug shots of civil rights activists arrested while demanding desegregation and equal rights. All of the arrests depicted took place on February 21, 1956 and May 25, 1961, at the beginning, and then the height, of the Civil Rights Movement.

In the five years between these two moments, The Movement matured, and in Ms. Janssen's words, "the raw anger became organized and focused and better dressed." Ms. Janssen's work also captures the evolution of police mug shot photography over this period. Her work reveals that by 1961, two light sources were used, the subjects are standing, their height is evident and information such as place and date of arrest is included.

Working in acrylic, iron oxide, oil and edding, Ms. Janssen adds collage including mug-shots, arrest records, hand-written sermons, Bible pages, segregation signs, protest letters, and song lyrics as a backdrop for the subject's amazing struggle.

Artist's Statement & Bio:

"In 2009 I felt the tactility of Black History Month. The inauguration of President Obama was such a wall of emotions. It seemed like sanity and truth had won over prejudice and fear, that we had an excellent man for a very difficult job who would empower us and not feed us fear. Personally I felt we could do with a little reminder of how hard the struggle for black people was/is by seeing faces of struggle. I found these mug shots on thesmokinggun.com and felt their proud anger and strength. Without their struggle I don't think we'd be anywhere close to where we are now."

- Charlotta Janssen, February, 2009

Born in Maine to German parents living in America under the Marshall Plan, Janssen moved with her family to Iran in 1973, later fleeing to Germany in 1979 during the revolution. Janssen studied painting at the University of Arts in Berlin from 1986-1989. In 1995, she moved to New York, where she has become a successful artist and restaurateur. She is the Winner of the 2009 Great American Slide Show at NYSG gallery. Janssen has exhibited in Milan, Shanghai, Paris, Miami Beach, Tokyo, Shelter Island and New York. She is represented by boltax.gallery, NY.

For further information about this exhibition please contact:
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