

VISUAL ARTS



YANNICK GRANDMONT



FACEWILDENSTEIN, NEW YORK (C) JIM DINE/SODRAC



FRANÇOISE LEMOYNE

Left, Wil Murray's painting *If They Bottled Sex With The Curator I Would Buy It But Spill It On The Way Home* from his show at Galerie PUSH. Right, Jim Dine with his painted bronze Pinocchio sculpture at the opening of his show at the Galerie de Bellefeuille, where his works include *The Ice Cream Man #1* (centre).

Jim Dine – in very few words

Reticent artist lets his work do the talking at Galerie de Bellefeuille

CHRISTINE REDFERN
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Jim Dine is the artist who made those two big bronze hearts that stand on Sherbrooke St. outside the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Last week, Dine was in town to attend the opening of his exhibition at Galerie de Bellefeuille. Jacques and Helen Bellefeuille, who opened their gallery 30 years ago, are huge fans of his art. Having Jim Dine come to Montreal for the opening, said Helen Bellefeuille, was "a dream come true. We had to keep pinching ourselves."

Dine has been a big name in the art world since he rose to fame as one of New York's pop artists in the 1960s. Since then, he is best known for his series of paintings, prints and sculptures featuring hearts, bathrobes and Pinocchio. The current exhibition includes many examples of these subjects.

The following excerpts are from our conversation last week – the tone of which was actually quite funny, though it was a bit like pulling teeth. Dine is not very interested in chatting about his art or art

people looked at the pictures.

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Another artist whose work features expressive brushstrokes and bright colours is local artist Wil Murray, a semi-finalist in last year's RBC painting competition. His paintings and collages look like the mutant grandchildren of Jim Dine's generation – a seductive mashup of abstract expressionism, pop art, Looney Tunes and beat poetry. Murray says his current exhibition, *We Pet Your Cat to Death*, pays homage to "the 17-year-old screaming inside me." When I asked what that teenager was saying, Murray responded that the message oscillates between "F--- you!" and "Sell Out!"

Murray's sense of humour comes through not only when he talks about his work but also in the work

itself and his quirky, poetic titles. Revelling in the acquisition of a brand-new jigsaw, Murray in this exhibition takes acrylic paint to new heights. He applies it in drips, blobs and sheets, draped over three-dimensional forms extruding from the painted surface. Don't expect to see a flat, rectangular shaped canvas in this body of work.

Jim Dine continues until Oct. 7 at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1367 Greene Ave. For more information, call 514-933-4406 or go to www.debellefeuille.com.

Wil Murray continues until Oct. 11 at Galerie PUSH, 5264 St. Laurent Blvd. For more information, call 514-544-9079 or go to www.galeriepush.com.

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