



Gallery & Boutique
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For Immediate Release
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Art Star Presents:



Mini Portraits by Benjamin Long

January 10th - February 22nd

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 10th, 5-9pm

Art Star is pleased to present *Mini Portraits*, a solo exhibition by Philadelphia based artist, Benjamin Long. The show will be on display from January 10th – February 22nd, 2009. An opening reception w/ the artist will be held on Saturday, January 10th, from 5-9pm. The event is free & open to the public.

Benjamin Long presents 20+ mounted photographs of vintage figurines, miniatures & toys collected after years of traveling to thrift shops & flea markets. Each mounted panel will include single portraits & some will include 2-4 portraits. The single images in the group were shot on film, using medium and large format cameras. The panels containing 2-4 portraits were made using multi-lens Polaroid Miniportrait passport cameras, which make a corresponding number of exposures on a single sheet of film. The film was scanned and images were printed with archival pigment inks, and mounted to panels. Long then alters each portrait by adding painted imagery. In some pieces the transition from photograph to painted imagery is seamless, which makes the viewer question what is real & what is imagined.

Benjamin Long is a Philadelphia based painter and photographer whose work has appeared in numerous publications and has been shown in museums and galleries coast to coast. His photographs, shot using Polaroid and classic film cameras, often feature close-ups of toys and vintage figurines.

Art Star is a gallery & boutique located in Northern Liberties, Philadelphia. We exhibit and sell handmade work & limited edition products by emerging artists across the globe. Hailed by Philadelphia Magazine as the "the cities first cutting-edge craft shop", we strive to carry work that is innovative & superbly crafted. We have also created & continue to support a growing network of burgeoning artists. Our exhibitions rotate every 6 weeks and our boutique offers shoppers everything from handmade clothes, jewelry and accessories to dolls, ceramics & prints.