Burnet Gallery at Le Meridien Chambers Minneapolis

Dana Weiser / Who Are You ?!?
September 16 through October 16, 2011

“Who are you?!?” Explores Issues of Identity, Adoption and Racial Stereotyping

MINNEAPOLIS – A Korean-born adoptee raised in Minnesota by Jewish-American parents, artist Dana Weiser uses her personal experiences and memories of visiting orphanages as a starting point to explore issues of identity, adoption and racial stereotyping.

In her first Mpls solo show, Weiser uses a combination of drawings, etched mirrors and sculptures to sensitize her audience to the frequently unintended stereotyping and racism prevalent in a supposedly modern, open-minded society. Over and over her seemingly calm, benign works hide provocative messages that create a sense of uneasiness, and force the viewer to consider, “Have I said that? Thought that? Done that?”

“I attempt to put the viewer in the same state of mind as a person of color might find them self as the victim of inadvertent stereotyping or racism,” explains Weiser. “It can come from this naïve, even innocent origin, but it’s still uncomfortable, insidious, and alienating.”

In “Orphan Baby (Silver),” the artist has incongruously covered a life-size sculpture of a crying infant with cold, glittering Swarovski crystals providing a silent commentary on what she describes as the “current fad” of celebrities adopting children from third-world countries.

In Weiser’s drawings, her meticulously detailed and repetitive patterns reveal phrases such as, “Politically Incorrect?”, “Prejudiced” and “Who are You?!?”. Providing a bridge between the artist’s sculptures and drawings are Venetian-style mirrors that Weiser has etched with her own intricate patterns and phrases that reflect the viewer and draw the audience directly into the artwork – and the issue – with questions such as, “Intolerant?”, “Racist”, and “What Are You?”.

"The reflective mirror further incorporates the viewer into the piece and really pushes them into questioning themselves and their views on race and stereotypes, unlike my drawings the words are now reflected on their own body," explains Weiser. “Who are you?!?” is on exhibit at the Burnet Gallery, in Le Méridien Chambers, Sept. 16 through Oct. 16.
Dana Weiser ([www.danaweiser.com](http://www.danaweiser.com)) was born in Taejon, South Korea and grew up in Minneapolis. She received her bachelor’s degree in art, from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2001 and her bachelor of fine arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2003, where she also received her post-baccalaureate certificate in 2004. Weiser received her master of fine arts from the University of California at Los Angeles in 2007.

Weiser’s body of work includes sculptures (mainly in clay), drawings and installations. Her work explores contemporary issues of race, identity and memory. She has participated in numerous group shows at venues including Kyung-Hee University in Seoul, Korea, The 533 Gallery in Los Angeles, the Daniel Weinberg Gallery in Los Angeles and, most recently, the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle, Washington. Currently, Weiser lives and works in Los Angeles.

**Burnet Gallery** is located in Le Méridien Chambers, an award-winning art hotel located in downtown Minneapolis. Burnet Gallery is a commercial gallery showcasing works by a wide array of international, national and local contemporary artists.

Considered one of the top boutique art hotels in the world, **Le Méridien Chambers** features more than 250 pieces of original contemporary art throughout the public areas as well as the hotel’s 60 guest rooms. Located at 901 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., it offers a unique combination of art, culinary, design and true boutique hotel experience. For reservations, call: 612-767-6900 or visit: [www.lemeridienchambers.com/art](http://www.lemeridienchambers.com/art)

### Images:

Orphan Baby (Silver), 2009-2010, Whiteware clay, Swarovski crystals, silver paint, lacquer. 16 x 24 x 25”. Image by Joshua White.

Prejudiced?, 2011, Magenta, grey, gold and silver ink on paper, 30 x 22.5”. Image by Joshua White.

Where Are You From?, 2011, Etched mirror (horizontal rectangle), 44 x 37”. Image by Joshua White.

**Burnet Gallery at Le Meridien Chambers**

901 Hennepin Ave

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Open 11am-9pm daily

lemeridienchambers.com

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