

Jeanne Silverthorne

Burning DNA

August 12th – September 24th, 2006

The Butler Gallery is delighted to present *Burning DNA*, an installation by internationally acclaimed artist, Jeanne Silverthorne.

Burning DNA is an exhibition that addresses the literal and metaphorical implications of DNA (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid), the molecule that encodes the genetic information that is passed from one generation to the next.

In mad-scientist fashion Jeanne Silverthorne traces the twists and turns of the double helix in search of the answers to the old questions of where we come from and where are we going.

These are portraits of every physical facet of the subject. The tiny rubber figures are modeled in clay by the artist who worked from photographs and used magnifying lenses to capture the subjects in precise detail. The sitters also provided samples of their DNA which yielded their genetic blueprints, tracing their ancestry back thousands of years to one of our seven common female ancestors!

The installation pits transcendence against our decaying physicality. The rubber figures' phosphorescence glows and wanes in response to sensor-triggered lights. A rubber candle burns forever in the wind of an elaborate rubber fan machine, a parody of the body's respiratory system. Gears shift, propellers turn, lights blink—all in the attempt to blow out an unquenchable flame.

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Jeanne Silverthorne is an installation artist based in New York and Donegal, Ireland. Solo exhibitions include the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria, P.S.1, New York, McKee Gallery, New York, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Los Angeles, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Nathalie Obadia Gallery, Paris, Studio LaCitta, Verona, Seomi Gallery, Seoul. Her work is presently on view in "Against the Grain," at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, part of the permanent collection. Other collections include: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Houston Museum, Albright-Knox Museum, Denver Museum, FIAC, Witherspoon Museum, Sheldon Museum.

ADMISSION FREE

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