



## On Paper

Tucked high up in one of Chelsea's larger gallery buildings is an excellent suite of works on paper by a young artist named **Joseph Hart**.

Many of the works on view contain recognizable elements — a drawn face, a cut out vase, a painted flower, or, in one of the exhibition's subtler and more powerful works, a picture mat or frame with nothing but the heavy metallic shine of graphite in the middle. Like this work, there is a bit of mystery in each of the pieces as well as a hint at their process of creation. The artist says of this process:

"It's important for me to try new things and experiment in my practice, so using a variety of materials seems quite natural. I usually start working small with graphite on paper, then add the other components (collaged paper, ink, paint, etc) as the composition begins to emerge. I cut things up, fold, rip, break imagery down, unravel everything, then build it all back up again. Interesting things happen when you slice up art! The work inevitably grows in scale during this process, too."

At the opening, the artist mentioned that **Cy Twombly** was an inspiration for some of his newer work, so I asked him to elaborate:

"Twombly's work has certainly been important as of late. I admire his sense of drawing and line and chaos. My work can become a bit tight and over controlled at times, so looking at Cy is a solid reminder to slow down, relax, and loosen things up."

A couple things to pay attention to when looking at the works:

1. Get up close and revel in details such as the texture of a glob of paint, the changing color of a line, a quick pencil mark, or the fold in a piece of the heavy paper. The materials have a life and are waiting to be discovered.
2. The artist states that he often works in pairs; for example, the image on the left, *Hugger-Mugger* was informed by a piece he created previously called **Hoard**. Compare the composition of the two to get a sense of the decisions the artist is making.

**Joseph Hart**  
**Stagecraft**

**David Krut Projects** – 526 West 26th Street, #816  
until January 30, 2010



*Hugger-Mugger*, 2009. (76 x 50 Inches). Collaged paper, ink, acrylic, colored pencil and graphite on paper.