

Bottled Up at The Aldrich Museum



"Votive." Image courtesy Bethany Bristow <http://bethanybristow.com/votive.html>

Bottle: Contemporary Art and Vernacular Tradition

(<http://www.aldrichart.org/current.html>)

September 19, 2004 – January 2, 2005

Opening Reception: September 19, 2004; 4 to 6 pm

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

from the press release:

Bottle: Contemporary Art and Vernacular Tradition explores the use of the bottle in contemporary art making, and seeks to reveal how deeply rooted the bottle is as an archetypal object in our culture. Curated by Aldrich director of exhibitions Richard Klein, the exhibition opens at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum [...]

Rather than focusing on glassblowing as an art or craft, *Bottle* examines the use of the bottle as a poetic container, a space that is both in our world and uniquely separated from it. The nature of the bottle as a spiritual space, its metaphorical potential, and its use as container for liquor ("spirits"), drew self-taught artists to use it, particularly in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The bottle's intrinsic psychological and physiological associations, as emphasized by folk artists, attracted the attention of the Surrealists in the 1920s and other modernists who were interested in raw, unmediated expression. Additionally, the bottle's role in preserving food and biological specimens has not gone unnoticed as a rich source of meaning over the years. Artistic revolutionaries including Marcel Duchamp, René Magritte, Jean Dubuffet, and Joseph Beuys have all understood the bottle's potential power as a vehicle for aesthetic inquiry [...]

In addition to selecting recent works, The Aldrich will also commission several new pieces especially for the exhibition. In an age increasingly governed by electronic media, *Bottle* illustrates how humble containers can hold a collective fascination that transcends both time and place.

Exhibition artists include:

Joseph Beuys
Dove Bradshaw
Bethany Bristow
Tony Feher
Phil Frost
David Hammons
Mona Hatoum
Damien Hirst
Whitfield Lovell

Josiah McElheny
Barry McGee
Sean Mellyn
Maria Porges
Charles Ray
Alison Saar
Claude Simard
Kiki Smith

There is round trip transportation available to the reception from New York City provided by the museum, free for members, \$5 for non-members. Call 203-438-4519 for a reservation (already half full as of Friday...) Or you can drive yourself.

If you've never been to the renowned Aldrich Museum, this is an excellent opportunity to see their new building.