

JIM WOODRING

YOU DRIVE!

NEW DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS

January 10 – February 27, 2015

Opening reception January 10th, 6 PM

SCOTT EDER GALLERY is thrilled to announce an exhibition of recent paintings and charcoal drawings by **JIM WOODRING**, as well as original art from his latest graphic novel, ***Fran.***

The show opens on Saturday, January 10th, with an artist reception from 6-8pm.

Books and two limited-edition screen prints will also be available for purchase.

The exhibition continues through February 27th.

The gallery is located at:
18 Bridge St., 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201 (Dumbo)
Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 1-6

Jim Woodring has earned international acclaim and numerous awards for his visionary use of cartooning to express his view of life's hidden mysteries. His comics and art are charged with the authentic intensity of a genuinely mystical imagination.

"A great talent!" -George Lois

Woodring's artistic process is the most direct possible: a vision appears on the screen of his mind and he translates it to paper or canvas. He doesn't work in series, or explore selected themes. His images are born of unprecedented impulses, manifested as anecdotal puzzle-pictures, condensed metaphysical fables intended to be gazed upon in leisure and at length, allowing the eyes to move from one element to another as the implications slowly emerge and form a single idiosyncratic history.



Woodring considers himself primarily a cartoonist, though: "First, last and always, everything I do is a cartoon. This is a boast, not modesty." For the past 30 years he's produced a mingled cascade of drawings, comics, paintings, designs and sculptures, all reflecting his lifelong obsession with the invisible, hidden or revealed world. Fantagraphics has published five major titles by Woodring, as well as his sketchbooks and anthologies. Starting in late 2013, he dedicated himself exclusively to producing major charcoal drawings and oil paintings, attaining in the process new levels of complexity and depth.

This current exhibition at Scott Eder Gallery, our second Woodring solo show, showcases these new drawings and paintings, as well as selected pages from *Fran*, Jim's most recent graphic novel:

"Fran" | 2013

Winner, 2014 Lynd Ward Graphic Novel Prize
Ranked #4 on *Time's* Top 10 Comics and Graphic Novels of 2013
A *New York Times* 2013 Holiday Gift Guide selection
A *Comics Grinder* Guide to Graphic Novels 2013 selection
Comic Book Resources' Top 100 Comics of 2013
One of Victor Kerlow's Best Comics of 2013 at the Atomic Books Blog

For the past 20 years or so, Jim Woodring's beloved tri-lobular chuck-buster Frank has enjoyed one mind-bending catastrophe after another in the treacherous embrace of The Unifactor, the land into which he was born and from which escape seemed neither desirable nor likely. And then, abruptly, in 2011's acclaimed *Congress of the Animals* (the second Woodring original graphic novel, following *Weathercraft*) Frank did leave the Unifactor for uncharted lands beyond — where, after a string of trials, he acquired a

soul mate named Fran.

This development raised far more questions than it answered. Would Frank become placid and domesticated? Would he be jilted? Would he turn out to be a dreadful cad? Would he become a downtrodden and exhausted paterfamilias staring vacantly into the dimming fire of life as obnoxious grandchildren pulled his peg-like ears and stole his porridge?

The answers to these fruitless speculations and many more are delivered in a devastatingly unpredictable fashion in *Fran*, which is in effect part two of *Congress of the Animals*. Fans of Frank, connoisseurs of bizarre romance, and spelunkers in the radiant depths of graphic metaphysical psychodrama will want to add this singular cartoon adventure story to their lifetime reading list.



Jim Woodring was born in Los Angeles in 1952 and enjoyed a childhood made interesting by frequent hallucinations, apparitions, disembodied voices and other psychological malfunctions. Despite the generally frightening nature of his delusions he learned to accept them as part of life and was accordingly a reasonably cheerful and good-natured lad.

After barely graduating from high school, Woodring got a job as a garbage man and lived in picturesque squalor as he set about the task of capturing his inner life in words and pictures. Some of these fledgling efforts were printed in various "underground" publications of the day: *Two-Bit Comics* (a weekly tabloid), the *Los Angeles Free Press*, and an early effort at self-publishing, *The Little Swimmer*.

Gradually he developed a number of serviceable drawing styles and became a full-time freelance cartoonist, doing work primarily for advertising agencies and public relations companies but also working on whatever projects came his way, such as student films and other collaborative art.

In 1980 he self-published the first issue of his "illustrated autojournal", *Jim*, containing comics, drawings and stories drawn from his indelible childhood experiences. Eventually Woodring landed a salaried job in an L.A. animation studio where he worked on some of the worst cartoons this degraded planet has ever seen.

Jim was published as a regular series by Fantagraphics Books starting in 1986, to critical acclaim if less than spectacular sales, and Woodring became a full-time cartoonist. *Frank*, a wordless surrealist series which began as an occasional feature within *Jim*, became his best-known work.

Woodring created a short-lived comics series for children, *Tantalizing Stories*, with Mark Martin. He has also worked as a freelance illustrator and comics writer, writing comics based on *Aliens* and *Star Wars* for Dark Horse Comics and adapting the film *Freaks* with F. Solano Lopez. Additionally, Woodring illustrated Microsoft's Comic Chat program, an IRC client which is notably employed in the creation of the daily Internet comic *Jerkcity*.

In recent years Woodring has also become a popular toy designer, with his strange creations sold in vending machines in Japan and available at hip comics shops in America. In 2002 Woodring moved away from comics and cartooning and began to concentrate on individual paintings, but by 2005 he was back to the publishing world with a new Frank book (*The Lute String*).

In December 2006, he became one of the first group of United States Artists Fellows. His work was featured prominently at the Centre National de la Bande Dessinée et de l'Image in Angoulême, France, as part of the international comics festival held there in January, 2007.

Woodring received an Inkpot award at the 2008 San Diego Comic Convention, and was awarded an Artist Trust/Washington State Arts Commission Fellowship in the fall of 2008.

Weathercraft, published in 2010, features Manhog, an "unholy hybrid of human ambivalence." True to form, *Weathercraft*'s intense surrealist art speaks for itself without any text. Scott Eder Gallery featured a solo show of Jim's *Weathercraft* art in June 2010.

Congress of the Animals (2011), Jim's much-anticipated second full-length graphic novel, stars his signature

character Frank in a gripping saga that propels Frank into a catastrophic and hallucinogenic series of events as he separates from his controller, the Unifactor.

For additional information and images please contact Scott Eder Gallery at 718-797-1100