

Ozone (From *Cabinet: Raw & Cooked*), 2009, gouache and colored pencil on paper, 23 x 30"



Bozo (From *The Inventories*), 2008, Artist book, gouache on paper, 7 x 50"



SUE JOHNSON

Lexington Park, MD

Playfully building upon and interrogating a long-standing western tradition of organizing knowledge, Sue Johnson creates imaginative taxonomies, organized into series that include *The Inventories*, *Cabinet: Raw and Cooked*, and *Trophies*, conceived collectively under the rubric of *The Alternate Encyclopedia*. Originally a still-life painter, Johnson creates finely rendered gouache drawings that cast various categories of objects, such as commercial products, domestic items, and flora and fauna into strange and provocative juxtapositions. Johnson explains, "*The Alternate Encyclopedia* project presents itself as a here-to-fore unpublished encyclopedia without end or exact dimensions, and proposes a parallel universe of stories... At its core, works serve to investigate the fiction inherent in pictures. Everyday objects are recast in unfamiliar roles to create rebus images that are uncanny and without translation." Johnson's work represents a cross-section of American popular culture, mediated through patterns of consumption, that invites viewers to reexamine hidden narratives and significance within the jumble of seemingly conflicting images and experiences that characterize daily life. As the artist has remarked with regard to *The Inventories*, "Each work is a collection of fragments, a synthetic construction composed of recognizable things and places, one in which the sum of its parts is more elusive than a simple inventory of things."

EDUCATION:

MFA, Painting, Columbia University, New York, NY 1981
BFA, Painting, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 1979

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

3D Multiples: The Object of Production, 1708 Gallery, Richmond, VA 2008
Eating Wonderland (solo), University of Richmond Museum, Richmond, VA 2008

SELECTED AWARDS/GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS:

Residency Fellowship at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Amherst, VA 2009
Maryland State Arts Council, Individual Artist Award (Works on Paper) 2008