

**Ruth Henkel**

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**Education**

BFA 1978 San Francisco Art Institute  
MFA 2013 Eastern Michigan University

**Awards**

2010 Dorothy Lamming Scholarship, Eastern Michigan University

**Juried Group Exhibition**

2014 Terra Nova II December, Duderstadt Center Gallery, Ann Arbor MI  
2014 Terra Nova Landscape Show April, Power Center For the Performing Arts,  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
2013 About Face: The Portrait Redefined October, Rodin-Midtown Detroit, MI  
2013 MFA Exhibit April: Meghna Chauhan and Ruth Henkel  
2013 Rodin Summertime Show August, ( **Honorable Mention**) Rodin-Midtown  
Detroit, MI  
2013 Rodin Spring Show April, Rodin-Midtown Detroit MI  
2012-2013 Rodin Grand Opening Show, December (**First Place**) Rodin-Midtown  
Detroit, MI  
2012 MFA National Competition, First Street Gallery, New York, New York, July  
2010 Annual Graduate Student Show, Ford Gallery Eastern Michigan University  
2008 Opening Exhibition, Armory Arts Gallery, Armory Arts Village Jackson,  
MI  
2006 Annual Body Electric Competition, (**Second Place**) Lawrence Street Gallery,  
Ferndale MI

**Group Exhibitions**

2011 Collective 7-Trace Point, January, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center,  
Birmingham, MI  
2010 Glimpse Project, Group installation, Ford Gallery Eastern Michigan University,  
Dec. 16, 2010.

## Teaching Experience

2012 Eastern Michigan University, Adjunct Professor, Art 101

1984-1993 Pier 70 Artist's Studio San Francisco, CA, Figure Drawing and Painting

## Juror

2009 Senior Exhibition: Megan Durrant "Dancing With Abstraction", Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI

## Publications

Detroit News, January 13, 2011 Art Reviews: Collective 7-Trace Point, Michael H. Hodges, Detroit News Art Writer:

*Ruth's Review in the Detroit News:*

**Michael H. Hodges, Detroit News Arts Writer**

Another lucky find is the dynamite all-women group show "Collective 7 — Trace Point," up at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center through Feb. 4.

If you see nothing else, search out "Cristy" by Ypsilanti artist Molly Marie Nuzzo — a savagely honest painting rendered at heroic scale of an overweight woman. Or is it a man? It's a little hard to tell.

Staring coolly at the viewer, the subject sits shirtless but wearing a tie, with arms clasped behind head and blue-jeaned legs spread wide. Pendulous breasts of uncertain gender hang in folds.

It's both shocking and a testament to the sweet liberation of not giving a rip. It's also beautifully rendered, with great shadows.

You get a completely different vibe from "Red Dress II" by Ruth Henkel. The Ann Arbor artist is a superb colorist with a gift for minimal detail that yields maximum emotional complexity.

More than anything, however, "Red Dress" is just drop-dead gorgeous. Stand in front of it awhile, and see if you don't come away refreshed.

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## Current painting Projects



### **Heaven is a Picnic on the Great Lakes**

**72"x 52"o Oil on canvas painting I have submitted to Art prize**

I look at this group of my family members enjoying a picnic on Lake Huron, sometime in the 1970s. All have passed. My uncles fought in Iwo Jima, Saipan and Guadalcanal. They worked on the Grand Trunk Railroad, and the Michigan Elevator Exchange. It was a time when one person, with only a high school education could land a job that would support a family of six. You might count on keeping the same job your entire life, be able send your children to an affordable state college, and after you put in the time you could count on a pension. Was it a perfect time? Absolutely not. Racial and gender injustices that still demand correction were acceptable norms of the culture. But in the 70s, it seemed possible that the realization of the aspirations of that generation seen here picnicking in one of our wonderful national parks could become within reach for everyone. Heaven is a picnic on the Great Lakes.

## Teenager

acrylic on board 24"x18" 2015

Teenager is the first in a series of paintings I'm working on that depict emotional states and interpersonal relationships.

