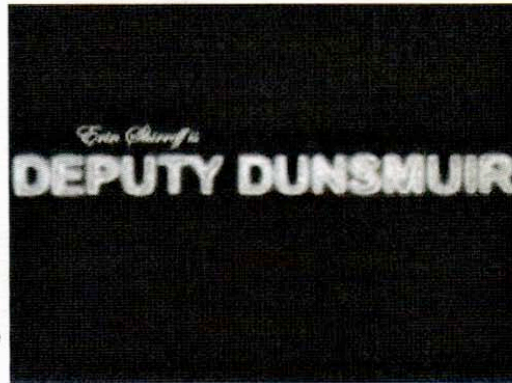


## “Mark Grotjahn, Richard Hawkins, Jay Heikes”

Shane Campbell Gallery, through Feb 25.

Come March, Mark Grotjahn and Jay Heikes will head to the 2006 Whitney Biennial, but for now their work is tucked away in Oak Park along with that of fellow artist Richard Hawkins. Found in Shane Campbell's space are title credits of an imaginary porn film, nude androgynous figures and a stunning abstract drawing of two vanishing points. While appearing to be misfits of some kind, each artist stands alone, as the show does not



Jay Heikes, Erin Sherriff is Deputy Densmuir, 2005.

focus on a theme or conceptual framework. However, this does not take away from the inherent virtues of the work.

The highlight of the show is Grotjahn's entrancing *Untitled (black and cream)*, a two-tone drawing of lines radiating from multiple perspective points. Staring at his off-center focal points is a wonderfully dizzying experience—such technical proficiency is a sheer joy to experience.

Grotjahn achieves maximal visual results with pencil on paper, whereas Heikes relies upon clever wordplay. Adding glamour to the everyday, Heikes uses friends' names, painted on canvas, and then adds glitter to spell out their fictitious “porn names” (their first pet's name plus the first street they lived on). He playfully suggests how one can gain stardom by reminding us of Andy Warhol's famous idea that everyone and anyone could have his or her 15 minutes of fame for no particular reason, only Heikes gives a perverse possibility.

Hawkins shows two recent watercolors of ambiguously gendered figures sitting in poses that leave their genitalia exposed. Loosely rendered, the figures sit starkly naked, undefined and vulnerable.

Separately, each work of art here hums with excitement, but together they lack a dialogue with one another.—*John McKinnon*