



Mr. Punchinello (detail), ink/paper, 120"x34", 2011 by Keith Puccinelli

# Keith Puccinelli: A Cultural Liminal Guide

At the Atkinson Gallery for one more week

By Kerry Methner / CASA

**F**ROM A LAND OF MILK AND HONEY TO THE LAND OF LIFE SIZED PUPPETS and larger than life crushed cigarette butts, came the first Santa Barbara solo show of Keith Puccinelli. On view at the Atkinson Gallery for one more week, the extravaganza includes 19 drawings, sculptures, and installation pieces that carry Puccinelli's spirit of intense exploration in dialogue with his own experience.



Photo by NancyNeil.com

Keith Puccinelli

"No matter what I touch it seems to have this 'Puccinalli' to it; no matter what I do, I can't get my self out of it," the artist

declares in a video by SB Seasons, taped prior to the opening. ( [www.vimeo.com/29734732](http://www.vimeo.com/29734732) )

The exhibit, monikered, *sweet cream sour fool*, reflects the anxiety and interrupted simplicity of living in the 21st Century. A well regarded cultural figure in the community, Puccinelli's work is on view through December 9th. His work can also be seen at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the Channing Peake Gallery.

Known for enormous drawings, Puccinelli himself can be seen when you gaze at his self-portrait, *Mr. Punchinello*, an ink on paper drawing that is ten feet tall and wrapped around a column in the gallery.

It, and other drawings, strategically

placed amidst sculpture and installations, make for a quiet cacophony as one piece informs on the next. Outside on the patio is a car of sticks with broken glass and one wheel off. The door's open... It's at first just pure fun, then the scene of a serious accident.

One after another the 19 pieces pull viewers down and deep, and then the next offering elicits a chuckle or a groan. That's the magic of Puccinelli's world and work.

Intentionally creating work that twists initial perceptions of it upon the second take, Puccinelli explains on video, "I want to touch them [viewers of his work], jab them, or move them, 'cause that's the kind of guy I am."

Atkinson Gallery is located in the Humanities building, East Campus at Santa Barbara City College, 721 Cliff Drive, and is open Mon-Thurs 10-7pm; and Fri-Sat 10-4pm. Reach them at 965-0581x3484.



Intrusion, 2011 ink/paper, 44" x 60" by Keith Puccinelli