

JERSEY CITY MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1998

MUSEUM HOURS: Tuesday, Thursday,
Admission is Free Friday, and Saturday
10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday, Monday,
and legal holidays (*Saturdays in the summer*)

INFORMATION: General Information
201-547-4514
Education Programs
201-547-4380
Fax Number
201-547-5655



Funding for the Jersey City Museum has been made possible in part by the City of Jersey City and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State.

WHITE: Paintings by Martin Beck

March 11 through May 30, 1998 *Opening reception Wednesday, March 11, 1998 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.*

White: Paintings by Martin Beck is the first museum exhibition of work by this young contemporary artist. An emerging figurative painter, Mr. Beck fills his canvases with a multitude of figures which evoke the power structure of our culture, as well as the conflicts and falsehoods that derive from it. Martin Beck's style is firmly grounded in the figurative tradition, with its rigorous emphasis on drawing, color, and composition. Movies, particularly those from the 1930s, as well as contemporary literature (Thomas Pynchon for example), are constant sources of inspiration for this artist. Curator Alejandro Anreus stated, "Mr. Beck's paintings are reminiscent of a Busby Berkeley musical in the middle of a revolution — sly humor, with a tough, critical edge."

The title of the exhibition is derived from the following comment by the artist: "White means identity, minimalism (the ultimate end of formalism, out of which humanism can be reborn), the white box of a gallery, white noise, and omnipresence. White also means something that cannot exist, certainly not in nature. Look, for example, at a white wall; with all the variations of light, texture, and imperfections in pigment, it is never truly white."



Martin Beck, *Corn Dog*, 1997, oil on canvas, 100 x 90 ins.
(Photo: Robert E. Mates)

Currently living in New York City, Martin Beck received his BFA from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and his MFA from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. In 1994 he received an individual artist grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Martin Beck has designed a web page to view his work and comment at www.beckstudio.com. *White: Paintings by Martin Beck* contains four large, almost mural size paintings, and six smaller works. On Saturday, May 2 at 1:00 p.m, there will be a gallery talk with the artist in conjunction with the exhibition.