



# if ART Gallery in Columbia, SC, Features Works by Peter Lenzo

if ART Gallery in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Peter Lenzo: New Works 2013 - 2015*, on view through Sept. 12, 2015.

Wim Roefs, owner of if ART Gallery offered the following essay entitled *Peter Lenzo's Second Wind*.

"Maybe we could come up with something that conveys my newfound second wind and the fact that the work is all new," Peter Lenzo wrote in a June text message about the title for the current exhibition. He was responding to the suggested title, *New Works 2013 - 2015*. He didn't object strongly to the suggestion but seemed to think we could do better. "I will think on it," he wrote.

That didn't happen – or, rather, if it did, the results were not revealed. "New Works" is, indeed, as over-used as it appears unimaginative. While it beats the pretentious or quasi-meaningful-but-truly-meaningless titles that burden many art exhibitions, "New Works" often communicates an absence of any attempt to capture in a short phrase the, or an, essential component of an exhibition.

Except that for Lenzo's current exhibition, that title does capture an essential component. That would be the very fact, no doubt surprising to many, that Peter Lenzo not only is producing new work but is doing so to the extent that a solo exhibition is in order, even required – and that there's so much new work that bragging about it has its place.

New Work!  
By Peter Lenzo!  
Really?  
Really!

Not that Lenzo didn't make any new work over the past few years, but his output was modest and infrequent. A life increasingly dominated by bi-weekly seizures and the bruised and battered body parts that



"Red Bird" by Peter Lenzo

result from them cut into his production. So did the side effects of his medication, memory loss, headaches and the general tiresomeness of an existence heavily dependent on others and in large part spent in recovery, in bed and in a general state of inconvenience punctuated by protective head gear, a cane and leg braces.

Lenzo himself had developed a sense of resignation and low long-term expectations, at times reflecting on whether life in his state was worth it and musing about the small number of old epileptics populating the earth. The title of a 2013 sculpture in the current show, *Maybe Two More Years*, captured his state of mind. Titles of not-much-older works such as *Left For Dead*, *Suicide* or *Beat To Shit Then Die* didn't exactly ooze optimism, either. Nor did *Near The End*

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