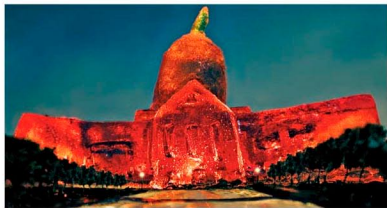


Food for Art's Sake



By MICHELE GENTILE
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These contemporary artists are becoming known for their fixations with mainstream foods, elevating certain culinary staples into modern-day icons.

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Jason Walker, a Scotsman who lives in Toronto, says he was becoming too serious with his portraiture, so he began to paint doughnuts, sprinkles and all. He's produced more than 40 such pieces over the past two years, commanding up to \$4,500 for larger groupings. The paintings sell briskly through the Galerie de Bellefeuille in Montreal. The downside: "It's put me off eating doughnuts altogether," Walker says. Go to www.debellefeuille.com/walker.html.



As a co-founder of the celebrity-photography agency WireImage, Jeff Vespa has photographed hundreds of celebrities. Now he sidelines in burger portraiture, producing large-format Polaroids of this fast-food staple. "I only do Los Angeles burgers," says Vespa, who goes on burger runs armed with Tupperware to preserve their shape. He feels it's worth a few raised eyebrows: "People aren't looking at the burgers they eat. They don't sit there and consider the burger." Go to www.jeffvespa.com/8x10_polaroids/burgers/001.php.



"Jell-O was something I thought captured San Francisco in quality of light, playfulness and the fact that we live on very unstable ground," Liz Hickok says. She creates balsa models, casts them in silicone rubber and fills the molds with several shades of the wiggly dessert. The results (above and top) are neon interpretations of architectural

landmarks, which she then photographs or records. She has a new fan base. "I get tons of e-mails from people who do things with Jell-O," she says. Go to www.lizhickok.com/portfolio.html.