

## THE ARTS

# Human figures in all shapes and sizes

By [Catherine Fox](#)  
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The drawings and paintings in “Go Figure” come in all sizes and shapes, just like the human bodies they portray. And in a variety of sensibilities, which reflects the differing aims and interests of the artists who made them.

Jen Mazza, for example, works small. She homes in on just a portion of a figure — usually the mouth in contact with a hand — which fills a rectangular canvas you could stick in a briefcase (6 1/2 by 8 1/2 inches).

The disembodied, deliberately awkward gestures convey more than you might think. They suggest the kinds of unconscious reaction to anxiety, boredom or a wandering mind that your mother would admonish you to stop if she caught you in the act. Channeling the spirit of Lucien Freud, the New York artist revels in the fleshiness of flesh, which she limns in loaded, swooshy brush strokes. In contrast, the surface of Christopher Parrott’s painting is as smooth and uninflected as the expressions of the hip, young types he depicts.

There’s a lot of that ad-campaign slickness going around. The Athens artist’s charcoal drawings are more distinctive and effective. His delicate marks, which resemble the fine incising and burr of an etched line, catch the tooth of the paper to create a rich texture.

Parrott’s drawings benefit from their small size, which enhances the sense of voyeuristic intimacy and sexual charge he seems to be seeking. Chin-Cheng Hung’s choice of monumental scale and unusual proportions — narrow 6-foot-long rectangles — work perfectly for him. For one thing, they magnify his technical achievements. That the Atlanta artist creates hyperrealist images such as “Courage” using the unforgiving medium of pastel is nothing short of astounding.

In the remaining works, he captures with equal skill the blur of movement, the character of shadow and the clarity-fudging effects of second- and third-hand versions of video. Here, the proportions add a dimension to the sense of discombobulation he creates.

Good show.

## ART REVIEW

“Go Figure”

Through Feb. 28. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays. Spruill Gallery. 5339 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Atlanta. 770-394-4019.  
[www.spruillarts.org](http://www.spruillarts.org)

Bottom line: An engaging sampling of the different ways artists approach the figure.

