

# The Messenger

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## Joelle Francht

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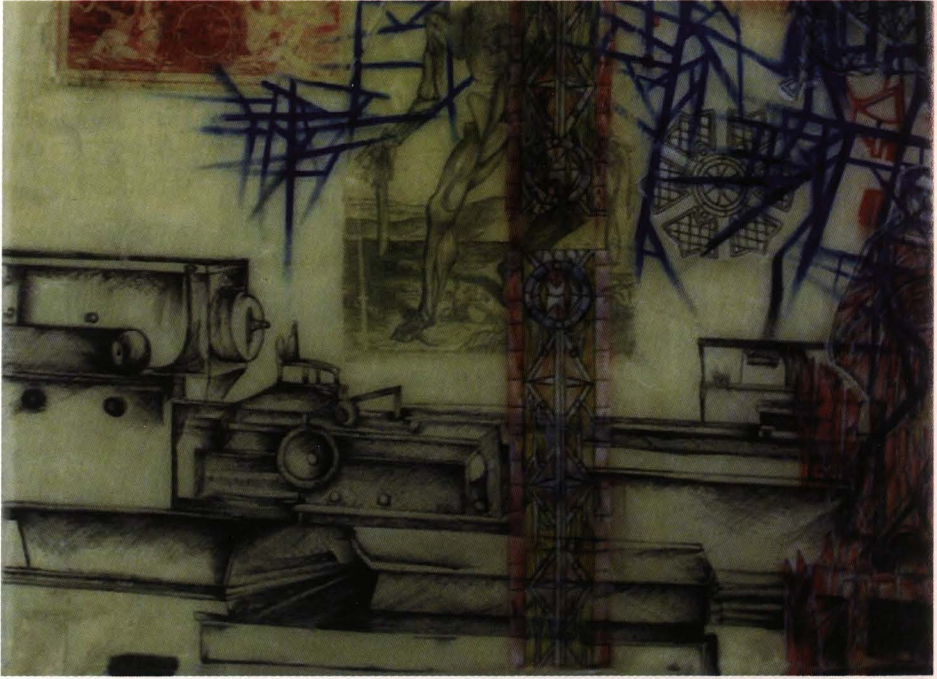
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*The Asphalt Conservationist;  
or, Perpetual Bruce*

*The Asphalt Conservationist*

When people call me on the telephone to ask what I am doing I usually say, 'Dealing drugs to minors in order to finance the development of my hovercraft, Bruce McCandless II.' Sometimes, I say, 'Working on Bruce McCandless II, my hovercraft.' But there are also times when my response is, 'Speaking in front of the city council, so that once I get Bruce McCandless II, my hovercraft, up and running, it will be legal to hover above the roads of Tucson, Arizona.'

Usually they laugh, because they don't believe that I am completely serious when I make statements such as those listed above. I have a passion for the conservation of our asphalt environments, and I think the development of legal alternatives to automobiles and other friction-based modes of locomotion, such as biking and walking, is the best way that I can contribute to preserving our asphalt, cement, and concrete for future generations.

*Alexei*

Two months ago, I sold some drugs to a minor named Alexei Leonov. He had a leather jacket, tight jeans, bad hair, and worse acne. His mother and father are former Soviet Republicans and civil engineers. They began to regret the utilitarian spaces they'd built in the former Soviet Republic, mono-