

JOHN BALDESSARI BY MUNGO THOMSON BY JOHN BALDESSARI

The first antenna balls were produced for Union 76 Gas Stations in 1967. The idea has endured to include Mungo Thomson's *Antenna Baldessari*. I think I should be flattered since I believe I am the first artist to be so honored with an antenna ball alluding to him. I'm right up there with Ronald McDonald and Mickey Mouse. I guess it's sort of like a celebrity roast or a political cartoon. Its not easy since salient features need to be exaggerated. For me height, white hair, beard and a red nose (Roseacia). Maybe to reference Santa Claus? I occasionally am also mistaken for Kenny Rogers. Too bad my height wasn't used. A slip-on sleeve could have been added to the ball - *Baldessari Tall Ball*.

Oh Yes - the suggested meaning of *Baldessari Balls*. A reference to my testicles? Attitude, or What? In the 70's if a male painter liked a female's painting, he said "It has balls". Maybe a variation on that comment?

Mungo's project suggests... some ideas I never realized:

1. During 2 months in India I wanted to produce Baldes saris.
2. A song: You're delightful, you're de-lovely, you're Dekooning.
3. Another song: Longo go and far away.
4. And another song: Mungo, Mungo, Mungo, I don't want to leave the jungle, oh, no, no, no, no.

I have done pieces with throwing balls into the air and blocking people's faces with a circular disc. Who knows what inspired Mungo. I do know he's an excellent artist I admire.