

GREENING

HUNT SLONEM



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Scan to see Hunt Slonem's most recent works.



26 Main Street, Sag Harbor, New York
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Exuberant, expressive, and inspired by nature, Hunt Slonem's (b.1951, Maine) luscious paintings of bunnies, birds and butterflies are popping up everywhere. I first saw his work in a client's home, as I was installing new Grenning Gallery paintings. Then, a few years ago at a gallery in Aspen, and soon after that, in a European gallery mainly featuring my favorite 19th century impressionist masters. Clients and friends implored me to go visit Hunt's studio, if only for the quirky fact that he shared his studio with a flock of parrots, surrounded by a rich tropical jungle-like garden. Upon deeper investigation, I discovered that Slonem has built a global brand while creating work that is both critically important AND sensually appealing – which is a needle few living artists can thread. Last summer, on our first visit to the Brooklyn studio we were blown away by the vast series of gallery display rooms, staged with antique wooden tables set with fine china, as if guests were coming for dinner any minute. With oriental rugs under foot and rich jewel toned walls, Slonem's



Hunt Slonem and Laura Grenning in Hunt's Brooklyn studio, July 2021

vibrant paintings hanging in gold frames created an unrepentant display of his neo-Edwardian aesthetic. I fell in love with Slonem's color-rich paintings. They are also a perfect counterbalance to the spartan neutral toned interiors in fashion these days. As it turns out, I am not alone in my appreciation. Slonem has deep and broad institutional support, evidenced by the fact that his work is included in a wide range of important permanent collections around the world; from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum, the Guggenheim in New York, and the Smithsonian and the National Gallery of Art in DC to the Moscow Museum of Modern Art, the Miro Foundation Museum in Barcelona, and the Odessa Museum in the Ukraine... just to name a few.

When asked how the son of a military man became an internationally renowned painter, Slonem explained that his maternal grandparents ignited a life-long, miles-deep curiosity in the natural and supernatural world. His grandmother was a "character" who hosted old school Salons, inviting great thinkers and writers into their home. Sinclair Lewis, the famous author, was one of many notable guests. Slonem also said that he'll never forget the day he came home from elementary school and found large moths flapping around his bedroom. His grandfather, the then Superintendent of Schools in Duluth, had sent him several cocoons weeks earlier. Imagine then, a few years later, the 17-year-old Hunt Slonem seeing tropical butterflies for the first time when he won the Rotary Scholarship to study in Nicaragua! Slonem also credits his grandparents as guiding forces with his now legendary avocation of lovingly restoring the faded grand homes of the antebellum South and Gilded Age. Slonem is a true aesthete, using color and strong brush work in his paintings, and in his homes, he creates a visual, visceral, and sensual experience for any lucky visitor.

Slonem's prodigious expression embodies the late 19th century philosophies of Naturalism and Spiritualism, and Industry. Interestingly, his mystical butterfly paintings from the most recent *Ascension* series demonstrate a mature contemporary abstract technique yet it's infused with his distinct Naturalist and Spiritualist instinct.

Slonem's paintings strike a sincere and spiritual chord. His child-like awe of nature exudes from every painting. His work demonstrates my Animist philosophy of great oil paintings; I believe that one can't separate the way the artist was feeling when they made the painting from the way it makes us feel when we are in front of it. Last week we sat down in his Manhattan studio to chat during a busy day. Slonem had a string of wooden beads, connected by a long red thread, looped around his free hand, dangling almost to his knees. I asked if they were rosary beads and he said 'no – that he was more of a Hindu and American spiritualist'. I wasn't surprised to later read that Hunt considers each painting to be like a prayer to the subject, as his paintings are created in a meditative state. This explains the repetitive nature of his work. Interestingly, from a market perspective many wonder – aren't there too many Slonem's out there? To this I say no – he is like Warhol – creating an easily recognizable series of works – except every single one is an original! His team meticulously records the name and serial number for each work – so authentication will be easy in the future. With all these vested institutions and galleries, I foresee the potential for an active market in trading these paintings.

Laura Grenning
Grenning Gallery
Sag Harbor, New York
June 2022



"Monarch & Viceroy Day"
20.5 x 11.5 inches, Oil on wood, 2021, TD0520

COVER: Detail of "Clockwork Orange" 2021, Oil on canvas, 30 x 36 inches, CSR2737



"Clearing"
2021, Oil on wood, 26 x 23.5 inches, TD0131



"Red Hutch"
2021, Oil on wood, 33 x 28 inches, CX0579



"Lincoln Twilight"
2022, Oil on canvas, 36 x 30 inches, SH0629



"Green Singers"
2022, Oil on wood, 33 x 26 inches, CX0948



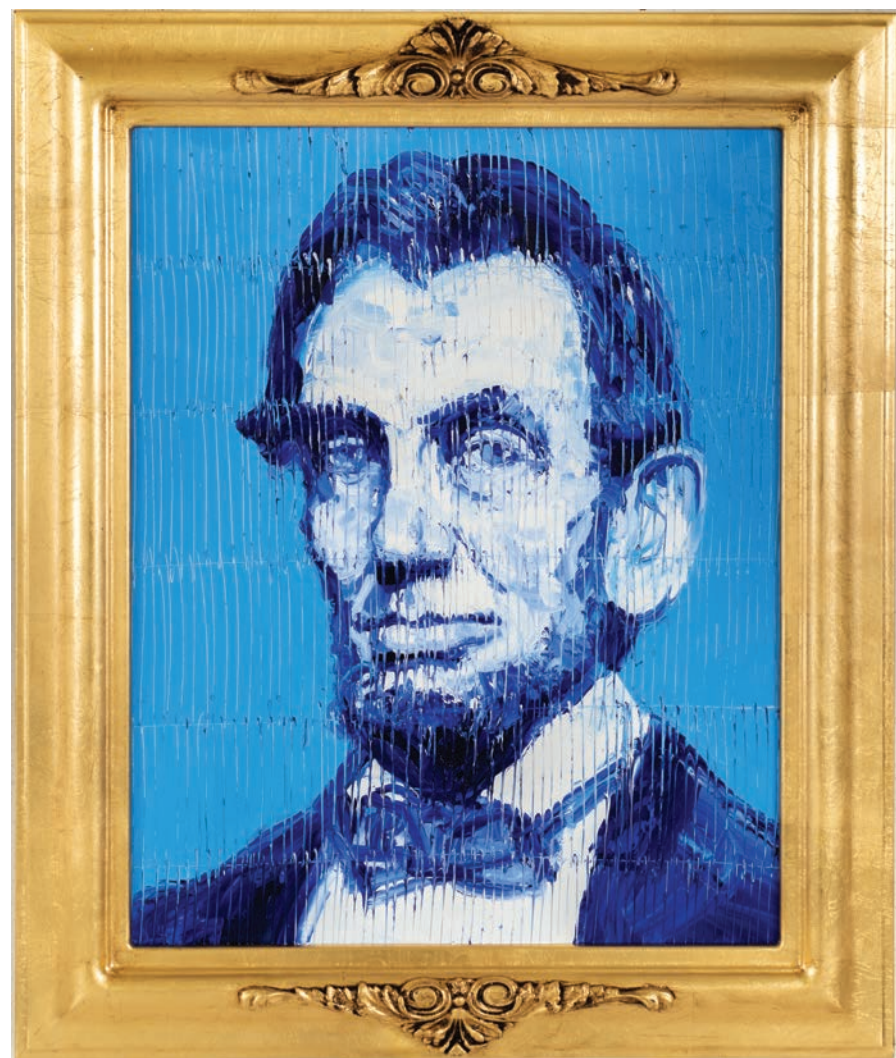
“Bayou Blue”
2022, Oil on wood, 16 x 12 inches, CX1170



“Yellow Migration Question Mark Comma”
2021, Oil on canvas, 30 x 52.5 inches, TD0219



"Pink Ascension (Tues)"
2022, Oil on canvas, 77 x 101 inches, CX1469



"Abraham Lincoln"
2021, Oil on wood, 20 x 16 inches, TD0498



"Blue Hutch 2"
2022, Oil on canvas, 48 x 48 inches, SH0830



“La Fouche Assumption Parrish”
2022, Oil on Wood, 27 x 22 inches, CX0900



“Untitled”
2010, Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 inches, CKS0204



"Cordon Bleu" 2021, Oil on canvas, 37 x 53 inches, TD0132



"Blue Tangle Diamond"
2021, Oil & Acrylic w/ Diamond Dust on wood, 10 x 8 in.
TD0208



"Sky Hop"
2021, Oil on wood, 10 x 8 in.
TD0443



"Hutch Virginia"
2022, Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches, SH0525



"Audrey Again"
2022, Oil on wood, 10 x 8 inches, CX01250



"Pink Ascension"
2022, Oil on canvas, 60 x 70 inches, SH0511



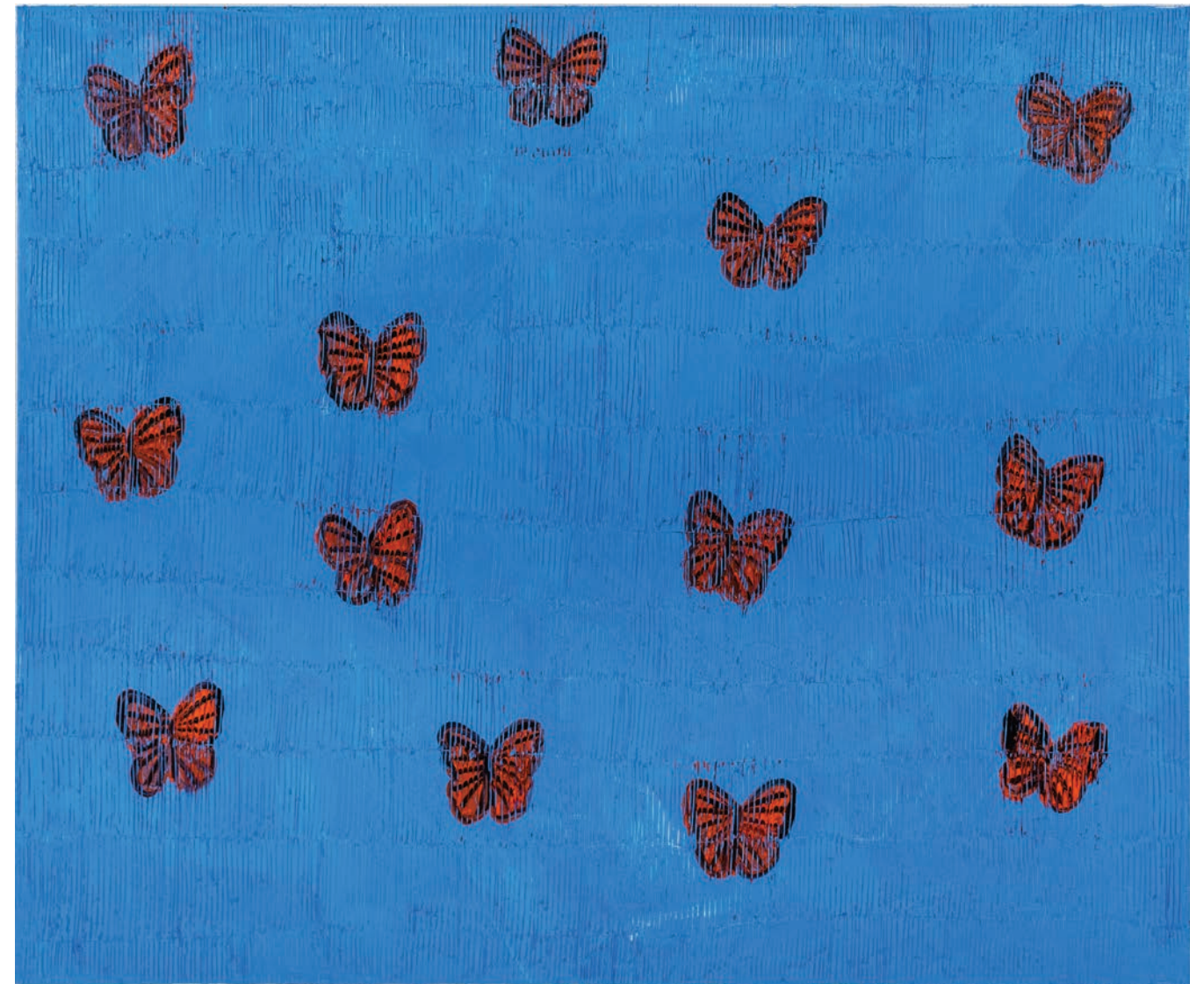
"Dream Weaving Ascension II"
2022, Oil on wood, 48 x 35 inches, JW0214



"Blue Ascension Tuesday"
2022, Oil on canvas, 48 x 48 inches, SH0832



"Clockwork Orange"
2021, Oil on canvas, 30 x 36 inches, CSR2737



"Monarch Migration"
2022, Oil on canvas, 50 x 60 inches, CSR1799



"White Bunny Diamond"
2021, Oil & Acrylic w/ Diamond Dust on wood, 10 x 8 in.
TD0451



"Limeade"
2021, Oil on wood, 10 x 8 in.
TD0465



"Jackie O"
2021, Oil on wood, 10 x 8 in.
TD0169



"Deerfield Green"
2021, Oil on wood, 10 x 8 in.
TD0500



"Scored Hutch"
2022, Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 inches, SH0726



BIOGRAPHY

Hunt Slonem (b.1951, Kittery, ME) is an American artist best known for his “maximalist” paintings of wildlife exotica - most famously birds, rabbits and butterflies. Drawing inspiration from the spiritual and natural worlds, Slonem repeats these motifs on an epic scale in an act of visual and artistic mantra. Rendered through loose, gestural brushwork, his figures dissolve into rhythmic patterns at the edges of abstraction, creating symphonies of color, line and form across a highly textural canvas. His oeuvre’s meditative qualities are equally matched, by a “remarkable levity... a lightness



“Skyfall”

2022, Oil on wood, 26 x 22 inches, SH0828

of being” (Henry Geldzahler, Metropolitan Museum of Art 1996). Slonem’s works can be found in the permanent collections of over 200 museums around the world, including the Guggenheim Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Whitney, the Miro Foundation in Barcelona Spain and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Since his first solo show in New York City in 1977, Slonem’s work has been showcased internationally hundreds of times, most recently at the Venice Biennale Exhibition. Between 2020 and 2022 he was featured by The Art Museum Riga Bourse in Latvia, the National Gallery in Bulgaria, and in countless galleries around the world. His admiration for far-flung destinations has been a staple of his life since childhood. Although born in Maine, Slonem’s father’s position as a Navy officer meant the family moved often during Hunt’s formative years, including extended stays in Hawaii, California and Connecticut. He would continue to seek out travel opportunities throughout his young-adult years, studying abroad in Nicaragua and Mexico; these eye-opening experiences imbued him with an appreciation for tropical landscapes that would influence his unique style.

After graduating with a degree in painting and art history from Tulane University in New Orleans, Slonem spent several years in the early 1970s living in Manhattan. It wasn’t until Janet Fish offered him her studio for the summer of 1975 that Slonem was able to fully immerse himself in his work. His pieces began getting exhibited around New York, propelling his reputation and thrusting him into the city’s explosive contemporary arts scene.



“Her Highness”

2021, Oil on wood, 20 x 16 inches, TD0514

He received several prestigious grants, including from Montreal’s Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Cultural Counsel Foundation’s Artist Project, for which he painted an 80-foot mural of the World Trade Center in the late 1970s. He also received an introduction to the Marlborough Gallery, which would represent him for 18 years.

As Slonem honed his aesthetic, his work began appearing in unique, contextual spaces. By 1995 he finished a massive six-by-86-foot mural of birds, which shoots across the walls of the Bryant Park Grill Restaurant in New York City. His charity work has resulted in dozens of partnerships, including a wallpaper of his famous bunnies designed specifically with Lee Jofa for the Ronald McDonald House on Long Island, New York.

Slonem continues to draw great inspiration from history, forging palpable connections to the past through his art. His popular portraits of Abraham Lincoln reframe the historic figure as a pop-art icon, and he is currently working on a nine-foot-tall bronze sculpture of French explorer Robert De La Salle, to be displayed publicly in Louisiana.

Yet Slonem’s most ambitious project has been his mission to save America’s often forgotten historic buildings. Realizing too many of the country’s architectural gems have fallen into disrepair, Slonem has found himself drawn to these national landmarks, inspired by the depth of their age and old-world beauty. Among his accomplishments are the restorations of Cordt’s Mansion in Kingston, New York; the Lakeside and Albania mansions of Louisiana; and the Scranton Armory and Charles Sumner Woolworth’s mansion in Scranton, Pennsylvania. His sixth and latest endeavor is Belle Terre, a storied property in South Kortright, New York.

RECENT EXHIBITIONS AND MUSEUM SHOWS

- 2022** Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY since 2021; Venice Biennale, Italy; The Siauliai Aušros Museum, Siauliai, Lithuania, European Union; Osthaus-Museum Hagen, Hagen, Germany; National Arts Club, New York, NY; Weinberger Fine Art, Kansas City, MO; Coats Wright Art & Design, Carmel, IN; KW Contemporary Art, Kennebunk, ME; Berkshire Botanical Gardens, Stockbridge, MA; Bender Gallery, Asheville, NC; Stanford Fine Art, Nashville, TN; Laura Rathe Fine Art, Dallas, TX since 2019; Solana Beach, CA; Samuel Owens Gallery, Greenwich, CT since 2021; Gallery Mar, Park City, UT Since 2021; Miller Gallery, Cincinnati since 2014; Harmon Meek Gallery, Naples, FL since 1997
- 2021** Quidley & Company Fine Art Galleries, Nantucket, MA since 2017; Gallery Schimming, Kampen, Germany, The Art Museum Riga Bourse, Riga, Latvia since 2020; The G. Elias Art and History Museum, Jelgava, Latvia; The Mark Rothko Art Center, Daugavpils, Latvia; Aura Galleries, Mexico City, MEXICO; Galerie De Bellefeuille, Montréal, Québec.
- 2019** Gallery Frederic Got, Nice, France; Gallery Red, Ibiza, Spain; Gallery Red, Mallorca; Kiyiv Picture Gallery National Museum of Art, Kiyiv, Ukraine; Hunt Slonem’s Amazing World, Odessa Museum of Eastern and Western Art, Ukraine; Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio; Bonner David Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ; Diehl Gallery, Jackson, WY since 2018; TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA Since 2015; Gremillion Fine Art, Dallas, TX
- 2000 - 2008** | Vanier Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
- 1998 - 2016** | Marlborough Chelsea, New York, NY
- 1996 - 2013** | Vered Gallery, East Hampton NY

PUBLICATIONS

Numerous books and monographs have chronicled Slonem’s art, including **Bunnies** (Glitterati Inc., 2014), **Birds** (Glitterati Inc., 2017) and **Hunt Slonem: An Art Rich and Strange** (Harry N. Abrams, 2002). His studios and homes have been profiled in such books as **When Art Meets Design** (Assouline Publishing, 2014) and **Pleasure Palaces: The Art and Homes of Hunt Slonem** (powerHouse Books, 2007), among others. His latest will be **Gatekeeper** (Assouline Publishing), showcasing his reclamation of the Scranton Armory, and its transition “from arms to art.” Slonem’s work has also been featured in a wide range of printed and online magazines including but not limited to *Architectural Digest*, *Art News*, *Artful Living*, *Artsy*, *Home and Design*, *Forbes*, *NY Social Diary*, *Palm Beach Daily*, *Town and Country* and *House Beautiful*.

RELEVANT AWARDS

2015 - Russian Academy of Art Medal of Merit. 2013 - Louisiana State Arts Council Inaugural Lifetime Cultural Achievement Award. The Horticultural Society of New York Award of Excellence, NYC. 2009 - D&D’s Stars of Design, Award in Art, New York, NY. 2007-ARTrageous Children’s Expressions Project, Gala Dinner and Art Auction Honoree, NY, NY. 2006 - Urban Stages Award for Fine Art, New York NY. 1991 - National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. 1983, ‘84, ‘86 - MacDowell Fellowship, Peterborough, N.H. 1983 - Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, IL. 1982 - Millay Colony, Austerlitz, NY. 1978 - Cultural Council Foundation Arts Project, NY. 1976 - Elizabeth T. Greenshields Foundation, Grant for Painting, Montreal, Canada. 1968 - Rotary International Exchange Student, Managua, Nicaragua

EDUCATION

1975 Studio of Janet Fish, New York City
 1973 Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, Bachelor of Arts
 1973 Banff School of Fine Art, Alberta, Canada
 1972 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME
 1970-71 Universidad de las Americas, Cholula, Mexico
 1969-1970 Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
 1968 Rotary International Exchange Student, Managua, Nicaragua
 1951 Born in Kittery, Maine USA

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Artbank Program, US State Department, Washington, DC
Alexander Brest Gallery, Jacksonville University Museum, Jacksonville, FL
Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Bahrain National Museum, Bahrain UAE
The Baker Museum, Naples, FL
The Bass, Miami, FL
Bates College Museum of Arts, Olin Art Center, Lewiston, ME
Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL
The Bowdoin Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA
Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH
Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME
Colegio de Arquitecto, Quito, Ecuador
Columbia University Libraries, New York, NY
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
Coral Springs Museum of Art, Coral Springs, FL
Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH
Customs House Museum and Cultural Center, Clarksville, TN
Danville Museum of Fine Art & History, Danville, VA
Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH
Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE
Detroit Institute of Arts Museum, Detroit, MI
Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science, Evansville, IN
Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY
Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, ME
The Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA
Ford's Theatre, Washington, DC
Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN
Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, Spain
Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, NY
Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Høvikodden, Norway
Hofstra Museum, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY
Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga, TN
Kasteev State Museum of Arts of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty, Kazakhstan
American Louisiana Arts & Science Museum, Baton Rouge, LA
Le Musee d'Art Hatian, Port au Prince, Haiti
Maier Museum of Art at Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA
Meadows Museum, SMU, Dallas, TX

Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, TN
Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Philippines
Mills College Art Museum, Mills College, Oakland, CA
Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS
Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL
Museum Würth, Kunzelsau, Germany
National Museum of Republic of the Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College/ State University of New York, Purchase, NY
Newcomb Art Gallery, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
Newark Museum, Newark, NJ
Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA
Odessa Museum of Western and Eastern Art, Odessa, Ukraine
Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH
Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center, Oklahoma City, OK
Olin Hall Galleries, Roanoke College, Salem, VA
Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL
Port Authority, One World Trade Center (Mural) New York, NY
Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
Pulitzer Collection, Amsterdam, Holland
Samford University, Birmingham, AL
San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX
Syracuse University Art Museum, Syracuse, NY
Detroit Institute of Arts Museum, Detroit, MI
Stamford Museum & Nature Center, Stamford, CT
Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL
Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel
Telfair Museums, Savannah, GA
The Art Gallery at the University of Maine at Machias, ME
The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI
The Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI
The Taubman Museum of Art, Virginia, Roanoke, VA
University of Oklahoma, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Norman, OK
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, FL
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS
Würth Museum, Kunzelsau, Germany





"Green Singers III"

2022, Oil on wood, 12 x 20 inches, CX0973



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