



KEVIN SONMOR

NOVEMBER 14 TO DECEMBER 5, 2013

COUTUREGALLERY
CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE



THE EDUCATION OF PEGASUS: MORALITY, 2013, OIL ON LINEN, 152 X 213 CM

KEVIN SONMOR

FRANCE JODOIN



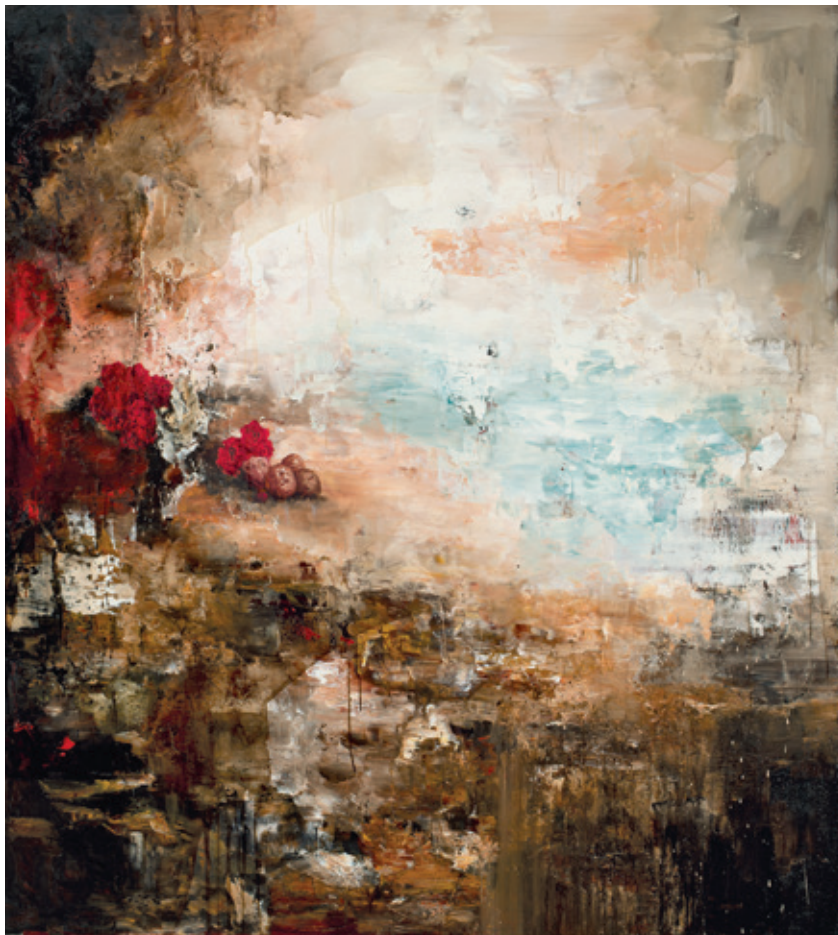
JEWEL-TONED HUES of red garnet and ruby, amber and deep blue lapis lazuli saturate Kevin Sonmor's paintings. Set against these abstract landscapes of rich color, almost as if floating within them, emerges a cluster of grapes, a flower, a bowl or platter containing fruit. The lush paint and color around these familiar objects both hide and reveal them. As a well-versed student of art, Sonmor brings together contemporary abstract aesthetics with the traditions of Northern European still-life and vanitas paintings. His work gives to the former the gravitas of the old masters while infusing new life into their traditions.

In his Pegasus series, the artist calls on the mythological winged-stallion linked to Mount Olympus and the Greek gods. In his many bold and fearless feats, Pegasus brought thunder to Zeus and helped Bellerophon defeat the monstrous Chimera. However, Pegasus is perhaps most dear to the arts in

his role as creator of the Hippocrene spring on Mount Helicon, a site sacred to the Muses and consequently to the ancients as a divine source of inspiration and creativity. According to myth, Pegasus created the spring by striking a rock so forcefully with his hoof that the spring burst forth.

Somewhere within the simultaneous heaviness and lightness of Sonmor's works lurks the nineteenth-century romantic notion of sublime nature, which overwhelms us through sheer awe and its indifference to human life. Coupled with the artist's statement that he paints his view of reality, which is also the unavoidable tragedy and decay of Western culture, one wonders how his paintings still retain a sense of lightness and hope. Yet what follows decay? The chance for renewal? When great civilizations fall, they make way for greater ones, if we are sensitive students of history and learn from those who came before us.

TEXT BY NICOLE SMITH



VANITY AND ITS IMAGE, 2013, OIL ON LINEN, 152 X 137 CM



VANITY AND ITS DOUBLE, 2013, OIL ON LINEN, 152 X 137 CM



SINCERITY STUDY, 2013, OIL ON LINEN, 91 X 121 CM



STABLE VANITAS IN BLUE, 2013, OIL ON LINEN, 91 X 91 CM



STABLE VANITAS IN RED, 2013, OIL ON LINEN, 91 X 91 CM



UNSTABLE VANITAS IN WHITE, 2013, OIL ON LINEN, 76 X 76 CM

KEVIN SONMOR

Born 1959, Lacombe, Alberta, Canada

EDUCATION

- 1988–91, MFA Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- 1986, The Banff Centre. Banff, Alberta, Canada, Summer Art Studio
- 1983–88, The Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, diploma with honors

MUSEUM & PUBLIC GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Simple Short Stories, The Sherbrooke Museum of Fine Arts, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada
- 2010 Lahey, Sonmor, Bartram, The Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
- 2004 Failing Gravity, The Art Gallery of Mississauga, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada (Solo exhibition)
- 2003 Under Different Circumstances, The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, GA
- 2002 The Landscape Perilous, Organized by the Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada (Solo exhibition, traveled to the Art Gallery of Western Manitoba, Brandon, Manitoba and the Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery, Oshawa, Ontario)
- Cultural Sensations, Coca-Cola, Atlanta, GA

- Marks, Gestures, Symbols, The White Mountain Art Academy, Elliot Lake, Ontario, Canada
- 2001 Made in Canada: Contemporary Art From Montreal, The Burke Gallery, Plattsburg State Art Museum, The State University of New York, Plattsburg, New York
- Controlled Substance, The Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
- 1999 The Menlove-Goode Collection: Endgames, The Agnes Etherington Art Gallery, Queens University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
- 1998 Sights of Contention, Organized by the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada (Solo exhibition, traveled to the Art Gallery of Sudury, Ontario and the Art Gallery of Algoma, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario)
- The Word in Canadian Art, The Canadian Centre for Contemporary Art, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- In the Wilds: Canoeing and Canadian Art, The McMichael Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario, Canada
- 1997 The Persistent Tradition: The Canadian Landscape. The University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- 1993 Sonmor Paintings, The Niagara Artist Centre, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada (Solo exhibitions)
- Sonmor Paintings. Langage Plus, Alma, Quebec, Canada (Solo exhibition)
- 1991 Rethinking Coyote Flats, Gallery Skol, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (Solo exhibition)

- 1990 I'm Painting Horses on My Walls, Modern Fuel Gallery, Kingston, Ontario, Canada (Solo exhibition)
- 1988 Reflections - Relocations. Truck Gallery, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Solo exhibition)
- From the Landscape, The Illingworth Kerr Gallery, The Alberta College of Art and Design. Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- Systematic Relocations, The Works, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- 1987 Ten Years. Modern Fuel Gallery, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
- 1986 With Introspection, The Walter Phillips Gallery, The Banff Centre. Banff, Alberta, Canada

SOLO GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 Couture Galleri, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2012 Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- Galerie deBellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- 2010 Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- Galerie deBellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- 2009 Addington Gallery, Chicago, IL
- Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 2008 Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- Galerie deBellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

2007 Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

2006 Addington Gallery, Chicago, IL
 Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
 Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 Galerie deBellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

2005 Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 James Baird Gallery, St. John's, NL, Canada

2004 The Lowe Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
 Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 Galerie deBellefeuille, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

2002 The Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
 Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 Galerie deBellefeuille, Montrea, Quebec, Canada

2001 J.J. Brookings Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

2000 Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 J.J. Brookings Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1999 Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

1998 Newzones Gallery of Contemporary Art, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

1997 Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

1996 Deacon Ulrich Fine Arts, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

1995 OK Harris Gallery, New York, NY

1994 Waddington Gorce Gallery, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

1991 Leo Kamen Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Canada Council Art Bank, Ottawa, Ontario

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Banque National, Montreal, Quebec

Cirque du Soleil, Montreal, Quebec

Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario

Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, Guelph, Ontario

Atlas Developments Ltd., Calgary, Alberta

Art Gallery of Algoma., Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Government of Canada, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario

Grimsby Public Art Gallery, Grimsby, Ontario

Burnet, Duckworth and Palmer, Calgary, Alberta

Hewlett-Packard Ltd., Toronto, Ontario

SunLife Insurance, Toronto, Ontario

Simon Frazer University, Vancouver, British Columbia

Telesystem, Montreal, Quebec

Tristone Capital, Calgary, Alberta

White Mountain Art Academy, Elliott Lake, Ontario

University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario

Canada Life Insurance, Toronto, Ontario

The Royal Bank of Canada. Toronto, Ontario

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Toronto, Ontario

Toronto Dominion Bank, Toronto, Ontario

Claridge Inc., The Bronfman Collection. Montreal, Quebec

Church and Company, Vancouver, British Columbia

Canderel Corp., Montreal, Quebec

Visit www.couturegalleri.se to see the artist's full CV and bibliography.



UNSTABLE VANITAS IN RED, 2013, OIL ON LINEN, 76 X 76 CM

COUTUREGALLERI
CONTEMPORARY ART SPACE

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