

Marlborough

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HUNT SLONEM: THE FEATHER GAME

MARLBOROUGH CHELSEA

May 22 - June 21, 2008

The Directors of Marlborough Chelsea are pleased to announce that an exhibition of recent work by Hunt Slonem will be held from Thursday, May 22 to Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 545 West 25th Street. The exhibition will mark the artist's sixth solo exhibition with Marlborough Gallery as well as the beginning of the second decade that his work has been represented by the gallery.

This exhibition will be comprised of twenty-two paintings ranging from an intimate 14 x 10 inch oil simply titled *Lady Gouldians* to a powerful 96 x 133 inch canvas titled *Cherry Orchard*. Among the more typical rectangular format of most of the work will be a quadrilaterally segmented round canvas 84 inches in diameter titled *Tondo Peace Movement*.

Longtime fans of Slonem's work will be rewarded with a group of paintings in a variety of sizes and formats featuring his well-known birds, butterflies and flowers. Aficionados of the artist's work will recognize the distinctive fields of repeated natural forms overlaid with his idiomatic *sgraffito* grids. Increasingly new, however, is the artist's use of gold and silver grounds exemplified in such works as *Abraham's Peace Plan 3* and *Whispers of Showers*. This serves to enrich and further set off the animals on the surface. The overall effect is of a lushness and sheer exuberance in both nature and in the act of painting.

Henry Geldzahler, the late curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and organizer of the seminal exhibition *New York Painting and Sculpture: 1940-1970*, notes:

In all Slonem's work, after one has studied it for a time, there is a seriousness about painting. The various devices that divide the space, render it shallow, thus keeping the work coherent in its own terms, add up to a consistent investigation of post-cubist abstraction. By varying the moods and techniques of his work in fresh and exciting ways, Hunt Slonem creates beautiful work that continually gives joy and surprise.

Born in Maine in 1951, Hunt Slonem attended the Skowhegen School of Painting and Sculpture. Since then, he has exhibited his work both in the United States and abroad, culminating in 2000 when he was honored with a career retrospective at the Centro Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina. His work may now be found in many private and public collections throughout the world, including The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City; Le Musée d'Arte Haitan, Port au Prince; Metropolitan Museum of Art, Manilla; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Fondation Joan Miró, Barcelona, Spain; and Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. Slonem has also created unforgettable public and private commissions, including his famed mural for the Bryant Park Grill in New York.

Hunt Slonem's work and life were recently celebrated in the 2007 publication of the lavish book, *Pleasure Palaces: The Art & Homes of Hunt Slonem*. Here the noted critic and author Vincent Katz writes, "Partially, Slonem's approach to art can be seen as one of wanting to combine life details and aesthetic techniques from cultures at odds with the dominant models found in first-world cultures into formats inherited from the later periods of high Modernism. In other words there is, in Slonem and his work, a fascinating bipolarity or multivalence."

An illustrated color catalogue of the show will be available at the time of the exhibition. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, May 22, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Marlborough Chelsea is located at 545 West 25th Street, New York. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:30 pm. Please visit Marlborough on-line at www.marlboroughgallery.com.

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