

HAPPENINGS

MICHAEL SUMMERS Seeking Balance

January 14 & 15, 2012

Historic Gaslamp Gallery • RSVP to pr@ecgallery.com • (800) 204-0062

Mark your calendar and make your resolutions – the New Year is a time to challenge yourself and set a new, positive outlook on life. It's also a time for beginnings and infinite possibilities. Perhaps you want to improve your health, make more money, or simply spend more time with family. Whatever your personal goals may be, you can be assured you are not alone. As human beings, it is natural to take time to examine and re-evaluate our lives in order to find out what is most important to us.



"Seeking Wisdom" Fine Art Limited Edition, 16" x 20"

Artists, in particular, face a unique challenge to achieve their personal goals. Working diligently to express the beauty and imagination that is stored within, they must juggle between the right-brained world of artistic inspiration and emotion, and the left-brained logic required to become a successful, selling artist in a competitive world. Emerging artist Michael Summers does just that, and has used his experience to fuel the ideas and emotions behind his paintings.

Derived from the struggle to find balance between work and play, between commitments to family, friends, and his artistic vision, Summers has created a new body of fine art paintings that speak to the need for balance in all of our lives.

Michael Summers's unique style, propelled by the Pop Surrealist movement, continues to evolve in a contemporary narrative that is both relevant and revolutionary for today's art enthusiasts. Painting since childhood and classically trained, Michael Summers uses his experiences and knowledge to challenge a static and conventional outlook on his subjects. In doing so, he brings joy and revelation to others.

Among his many accolades, Michael Summers has most recently been honored as the Official Poster Artist for the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival. The festival's organizers felt that Summers's art is well-suited to the youthful energy of the event and immediately recognized his shared enthusiasm for the finer things in life. Festival Producer Michelle Metter noted, "Summers's ability to capture the way food and wine is able to bring together a diverse group of



"Living in Technicolor" Fine Art Limited Edition, 30" x 22.5"

"Our everyday lives are filled with wonder, beauty, and magic, if only we allow our eyes to see it."

people in a positive and celebratory way, fits perfectly in line with what the San Diego Bay Wine & Food Festival is all about." Indeed, his poster, *A Merry Gathering*, reminds us of the value for relaxation and enjoyment with friends.

"I use a lot of symbolism in my paintings," says Summers. "The characters portrayed often represent archetypes, ideas, traits and other notions of mine." For example, his paintings that feature robots play to the binary opposition of logic and emotion. He explains, "Typically, the robot performs a task, never complains, cries, laughs, or loves...in contrast, in my paintings, the robot is often depicted in the grip of strong emotion, laughing with delight, outstretched in a flamboyant dis-

play of joy and awe at the world around him."

Another strong motif of the artist's work is a flying pig. With the immediate visual cue it offers, Summers is able to tell a story to which all people can relate. He explicates, "The idiomatic phrase 'when pigs fly' denotes something that is unlikely to ever happen...they are there to remind us all that in a world of near infinite possibility, the unlikely happens all the time. It is always worth trying something, because sooner or later you will prevail."

It is a true thing of beauty to see the world working in perfect symmetry, to observe the balance and perfection created out of chaos. Precariously stacked on top of each other, the flying pigs venture

forth into the great blue unknown. Floating weightlessly in this miraculous state, these explorers discover with wonder and vivacity, when the impossible becomes possible. Through these surrealist scenes, Michael Summers constructs a careful balance between joy, celebration and whimsy – along with family, spirituality and strength.

Truly great painters have the ability to draw with the greatest of skill, and Michael Summers uses his own talents in this area to the greatest measure. By applying carefully-blended strokes of acrylic paint to board, he constructs an image as detailed as the annals of history that play into each painting's subject matter. Despite the fantastical nature of his work, Summers successfully balances his figures with a technical drawing ability that makes his scenes instantly believable to the viewer.

Summers's painting philosophy extends far beyond his vibrant visual masterpieces. He represents a rare handful of artists who believe that art does not merely encompass the initial conception and painting process, but it continues to include the relationship between the artist and the collector. He explains, "I paint because it makes me happy and I want others to experience this joy. When I see someone smile while viewing my art, and I know we are sharing a common experience, there are no words to describe the feeling. It is a communication that words are not able to convey. I can create art for myself, but it is simply incomplete until I can make someone else happy in the process."

Please join us in welcoming the New Year with Michael Summers January 14-15, 2012 with a special champagne reception and exhibition of his most recent masterpieces.