

**RON
MONSMA**
REALITIES



MILLER GALLERY

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OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 6, 2010



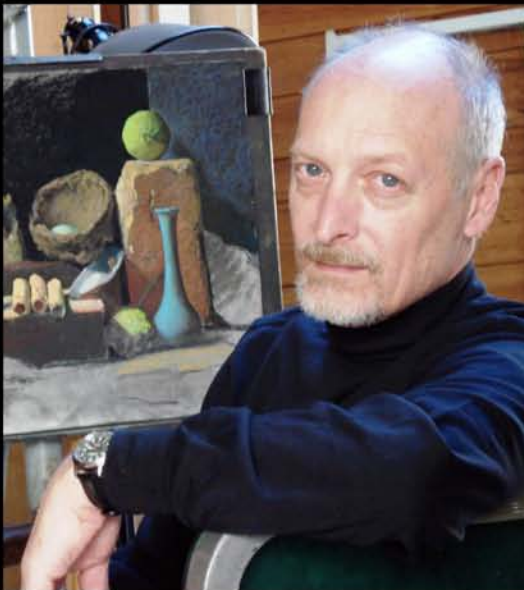
MILLER
GALLERY

established 1960

2715 Erie Avenue | Hyde Park Square | Cincinnati, Ohio 45208 | 513.871.4420 | millergallery.com

cover: *Sacred Ground*, pastel, 40" x 30"

Artist's Statement: **REALITIES**



I don't consciously work in series but paint what interests me and trust that, because of my nature, a consistency in direction will emerge. The title for this exhibition came after the works were assembled. Realities reflects not only the heightened realism of the work but also the sometimes otherworldly quality some of the works exhibit. It is not my intention to make surreal paintings but rather to explore the surreal nature of the real world.

I am often asked where I get ideas for paintings or what the significance of certain elements might be. These are not always easy questions to answer. When speaking in the language of imagery, attempting to verbalize a work of art can be difficult. Words are symbols used to describe, but they are themselves abstract approximations and, much like trying to explain a poem in terms of sentence structure, fall short of capturing subtle shades of meaning.

When speaking of ideas, I would stress that I am not only speaking about subject matter, but compositional issues as well. Paintings can make statements about any number of ideas concerning politics, religion, social issues, emotional states or moods—you name it. They may also deal solely with aesthetic ideas such as color, line, placement and general overall break-up of the two-dimensional surface. But regardless of the subject matter, aesthetic concerns are at the core of all good works of art. They are the visual language used to express ideas and are the vehicle upon which all subject matter should ride.

I think of the painting as a stage, and consider the lighting, action, and placement of objects or "characters". Even in a still life, each object has personality and interacts with other objects. Lighting and illumination expose a mood, establish a setting, a situation, or some event about which we are not quite certain. It is this light that invites the viewer to make discoveries in the shadows.

With respect to subject matter, I am in many ways, a traditionalist in that I use the subject matter artists have used for centuries in traditional and representational ways. Sometimes, however, I will introduce or combine elements in such a way that might cause the viewer to ponder their meaning, or suggest a story. Some objects are introduced as symbols, such as a nest with an egg, which I have used in a number of works.

The introduction of these objects creates themes that allow me to make statements about a psychology, to suggest a mood, to act as a metaphor, or to invite an allegorical association. These are not profound ideas but interpretations of the human condition. Some are often personal and are introduced because they have meaning for me; others may be introduced because the combination of imagery invites questions and is often ambiguous enough to allow the viewer to make his or her own personal interpretation. In this way, I don't dictate how the work is to be viewed but rather subtly influence and guide.

~ Ron Monsma, October 2010

RON MONSMA has been painting and teaching for more than 20 years; he is currently an Assistant Professor of Drawing and Painting at Indiana University, South Bend. Monsma has exhibited extensively in solo and group shows across the country, and his work is represented in private and corporate collections throughout the United States and Europe. He conducts instructional workshops throughout the Midwest.

Publications:

Magazines

Southwest Artist Magazine, "21 over 31", November, 2010
The Pastel Journal, feature article with images, Pastel 100 Best of Show, April, 2008

Art News Magazine, November, 2006

The Artist's Magazine, "A Work in Progress," feature article, March, 2006

The Artist's Magazine, "Modern Metaphors", September, 2005

International Artist Magazine, "Aesthetics, the Core of All Good Works of Art," Feature article, Oct/Nov, 2004

The Artist's Magazine, November, 2004

The Pastel Journal, "Ron Monsma," Diane Bernard Gold Award, feature article, March/April, 2001

Books

Pure Color, The Best of Pastel, Northlight Books, January, 2006

21st Century Indiana Landscape Painters, Mark Butterfield, January, 2006

Contemporary American Oil Painting; Jilan Fine Art Publishing House, 2000

Newspapers

South Bend Tribune -Intermission Section, full page article on painting 'Assez Vif' created for the Fishoff Competition, January 22, 2006

South Bend Tribune -Art & Galleries, reproduction of 'Composition with Acorns' promoting the 'State of Art' pastel exhibit at the Studio Arts Center, March 19, 2006

South Bend Tribune, "Art's Ultimate Test," full page article with illustrations, October 31, 2004

South Bend Tribune, "Dutch Master," full page feature article & images, June, 1997

Illustration

Regional and national clients include Bank of America, Memorial Health Systems, Saint Mary's College and Tidy Cat.

Music

Active as a professional drummer. During the past 38 years he has toured across the United States and Canada and has appeared with a number of national and international acts; wrote and co-wrote two songs that received regional air-play and recorded several albums. He continues to work as a jazz musician and performs every Wednesday at Trio's Jazz Club in South Bend, IN with Bill Boris and Darrel Tideback

Selected Exhibitions and Awards

- 2010
 Realism Biennial, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne IN
 Visiting Artist Exhibition, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale MI
 'Realities' exhibition of new work, Miller Gallery, Cincinnati OH
- 2009
 Midwest Regional Competition, Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart IN, 'Best Drawing Award'
 Northern Indiana Pastel Society Competition, Sycamore Art Gallery, Goshen IN, 'Best of Show Award'
 Faculty Exhibition, Indiana University South Bend
- 2008
The Pastel Journal, Pastel 100 National Competition, 'Best of Show Award'
 Faculty Exhibition, Indiana University South Bend
 Group Pastel Exhibition, South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, IN
 Featured Artist - Exhibition of selected works, Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
- 2007
 New Works by Gallery Artists, Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 Faculty Exhibition, Indiana University South Bend, IN
- 2006
 Faculty Exhibition, Indiana University South Bend, IN
 Online Exhibition of new Figure and Still Life Paintings, Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 Objects of Desire - Featured Artist - Exhibition of New Work; Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 State of the Art: Pastel in Michiana, Group Exhibition, Studio Arts Center, South Bend, IN
- 2005
 45th Anniversary Exhibition, Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 Objects of Desire, Group Exhibition, Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 Faculty Exhibition, Indiana University South Bend, IN
- 2004
 Solo Exhibition; Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 Group Exhibition; Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 Faculty Exhibition; Indiana University South Bend, IN
- 2003
 Horse Show-Group Exhibition; Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 Cincinnati Still Lives; Miller Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 Faculty Exhibition; Indiana University South Bend, IN
- 2002
 Faculty Exhibition; Indiana University South Bend, IN
 Hoosier Salon Competition; Indianapolis, IN 'Second Place Award' 2001
 Faculty Exhibition; Indiana University South Bend, IN
- 2000
 Distinguished Alumnus Exhibition; Indiana University South Bend, IN
 Faculty Exhibition; Indiana University South Bend, IN
 Midwest Regional Art Competition; Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, IN
 'Purchase Award'
The Pastel Journal, Pastel 100 National Competition, 'Gold Award for Excellence' Alumni Award Exhibition;
 Indiana University at South Bend, IN
- 1998
 Midwest Regional Exhibit; Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, IN 'First Place Drawing Award'
- 1997
 Windows, Solo Exhibition; South Bend Regional Museum of Art, South Bend, IN (Painting purchased for the Museum's Permanent Collection)
 Four Artists, Drawing Invitational; Goshen College Art Gallery, Goshen, IN
- 1996
 Midwest Regional Competition; Blank Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN
- 1994
 Midwest Regional Art Competition; Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, IN
 Regional Biennial; South Bend Regional Museum of Art, South Bend, IN
- 1991
 Midwest Regional Art Competition; Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, IN, 'Purchase Award'
 Four Alumni Make Art; Indiana University Gallery, South Bend, IN
- 1990
 Regional Art Competition; Blank Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN, 'Best of Show Award'
 American States Insurance Company Competition; Indianapolis, IN, 'Purchase Award'



Sacred Ground

pastel

30" x 40"



Three Oranges
pastel
21" x 22"

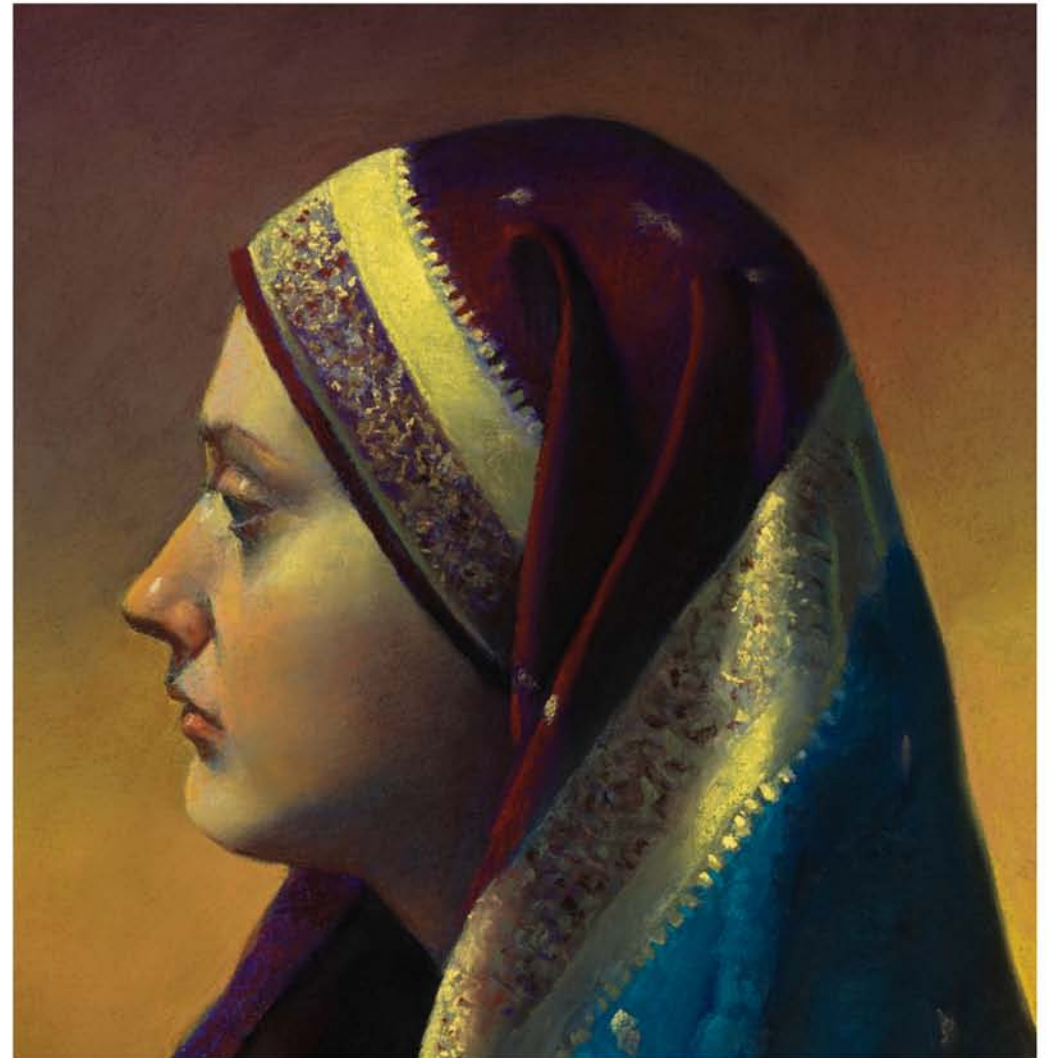




The Note
pastel
23" x 30"

Passage
pastel
23" x 22"





Vessel
pastel
30" x 40"
◁

Vessel
details



House By The Lake

pastel

40" x 30"



DETAIL
House By The Lake

Lemons
pastel
16" x 20"



▷
Marked
pastel
16" x 20"



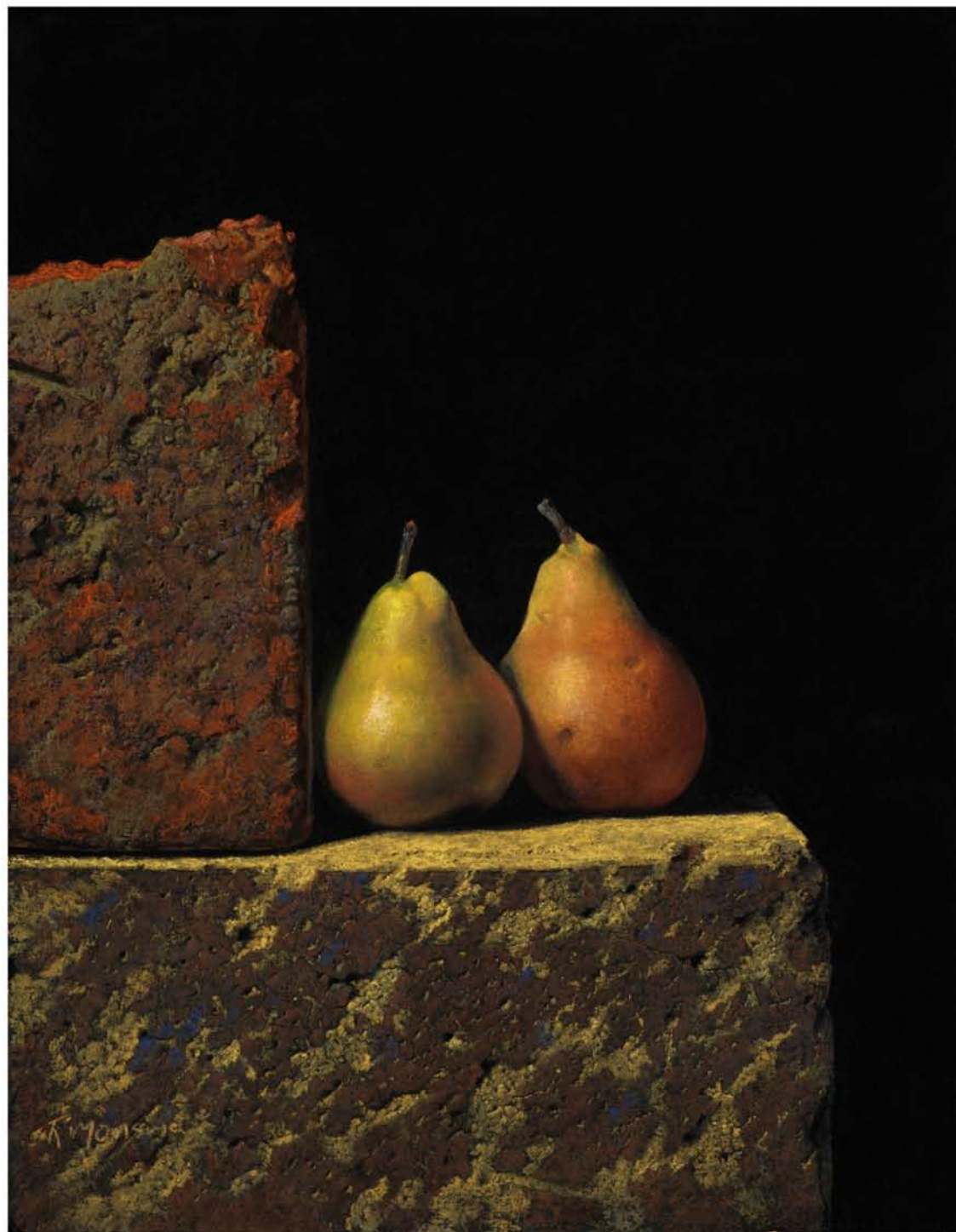


Still Life With A Brass Urn
pastel
30" x 23"

Details
▷



Two Pears On A Stone
pastel
15" x 12"



▷
*Still Life With Green Apples
And A Cup*
pastel
15" x 19"

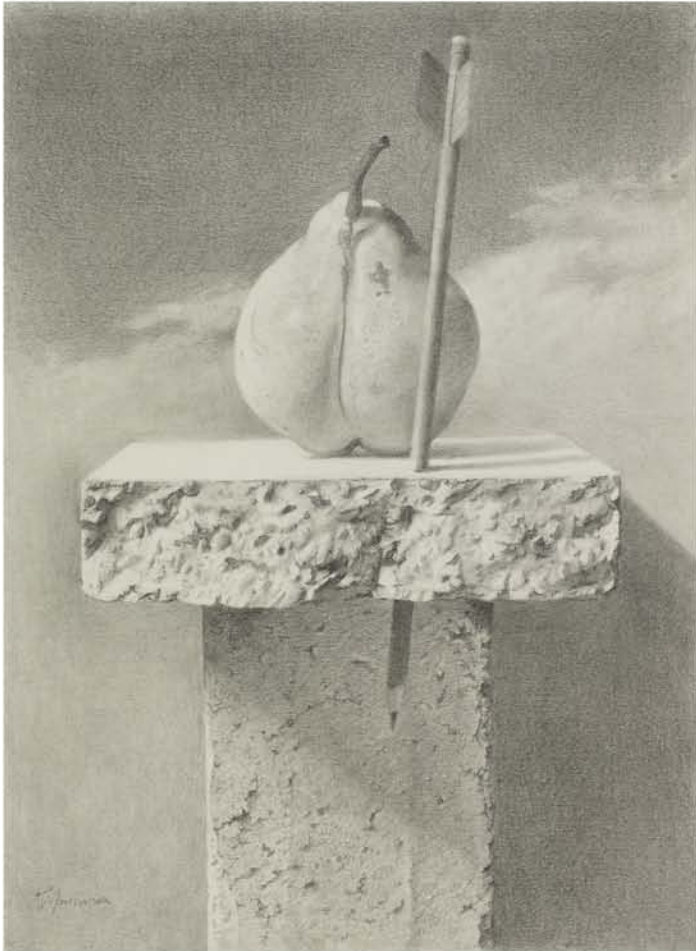


Ascension
pastel
23" x 19"

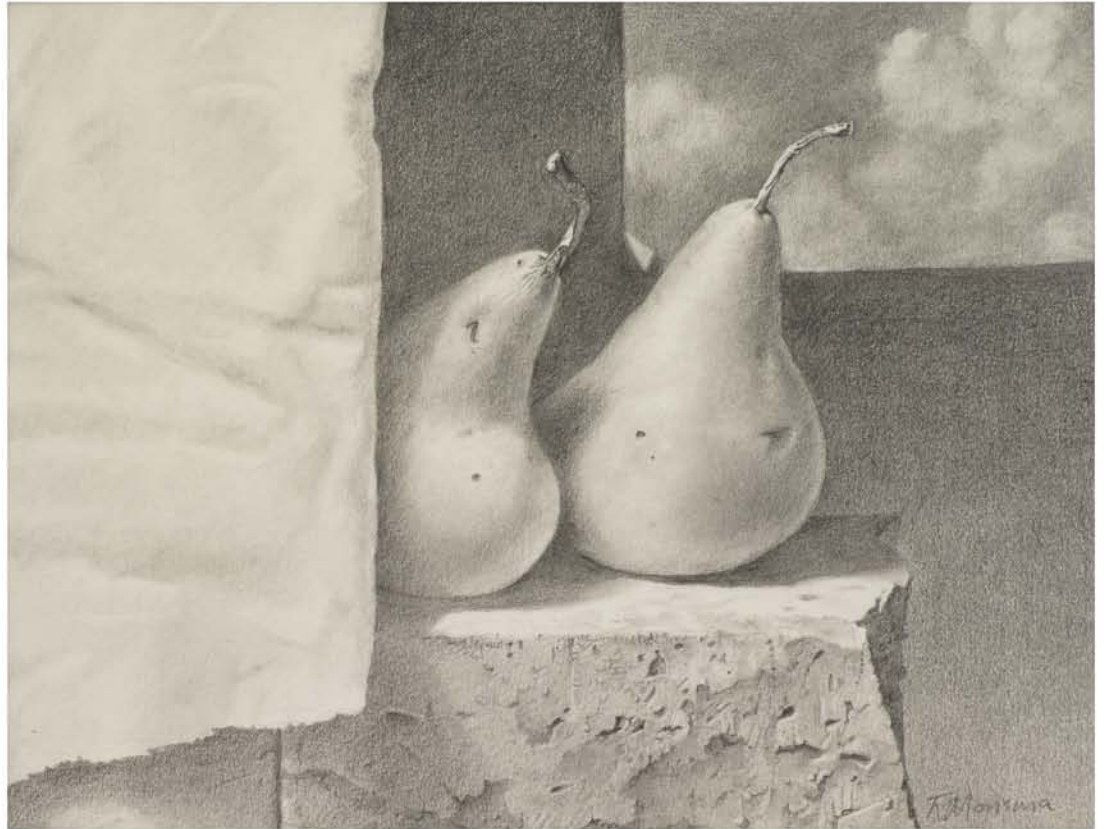


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Balancing Act
pastel
16" x 20"





Missed Again
graphite
12" x 8.5"



Two Pears Revealed
graphite
8.5" x 11"



MILLER GALLERY

Since 1960, Miller Gallery has exhibited an extensive range of artists, genres, and mediums. Our goal is to provide exceptional choices and services to our visitors while putting our amazing artists in front of the largest possible audience. We represent artists who have achieved the highest levels of recognition in the art world alongside emerging talent whose work is breakthrough in style and technique and an enhancement to our collection.

In our 50 years Miller Gallery has maintained a reputation as one of the finest galleries in the United States, promoting visual arts nationwide through our Cincinnati location and our website; millergallery.com.