

Mourning Chorus (Phoenix) Sal Higgins

27 June - 7 July 2012

1. untitled self (hanging)
950 x 1200 mm
mixed media and oil on canvas
\$2,500

2. untitled self (curled up)
500 x 600 mm
mixed media and oil on canvas
\$1,100

3. tumbling up
1215 x 1910 mm
mixed media and oil on canvas
\$5,400

4. untitled self (reclining)
500 x 600 mm
oil on canvas
\$1,100

5. untitled self (resting II)
550 x 700 mm
oil on canvas
\$1,300

6. soul food
1210 x 1860 mm
mixed media and oil on canvas
\$5,400

7. untitled self (head)
360 x 390 mm
mixed media and oil on canvas
\$900

8. see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil
diptych 2915 x 1220 mm
mixed media and oil on canvas
\$7,500

9. untitled self (pair)
950 x 1200 mm
oil on canvas
\$2,500

10. birdman sleeping (I)
300 x 170 x 100 mm, approx
bronze
\$4,500

11. birdman sleeping (II)
300 x 170 x 100 mm, approx
bronze
\$4,500

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Artist Statement

The bird as a symbol of the human soul can be traced back through art history to Ancient Egypt. 3,000 years ago the Egyptian hieroglyph Ba represented the non-physical personality of a person, what we today refer to as the soul. The Ba was the spiritual aspect of the human being that survived, or came into being, after death.

Today, in an era post the declaration of "the death of painting" the soul of painting lives on. If painting is dead, long live the spirit of painting. Here the human headed bird symbolizes the soul, a butchered spirit. I am interested in depicting the soul as its own fleshy being. The soul laid bare, naked as a slab of meat. The chicken and the painter morphed. This is my lament, my Mourning Chorus.

About the work

Higgens' work captures the raw squeal of humanity, peppered with all the poignant beauty our condition has to offer.

Her skillful paintings are exquisitely considered, yet embrace all the raw energy, authenticity and freedom of the sketch.

Higgens' unique palate and cutting dark humour make for visually magnetic and intellectually compelling pieces. For me, Sal's works have a subtle genius and visceral bite, not soon forgotten. Shelley Hargis, Gallery Director, Auckland

Education

Brighton University, Ba Hons, 2000-2003
Wimbledon School of Art, Btec, 1999

Selected Solo Exhibitions

Katabasis, Salerno Gallery, Sydney Australia, 22 October 2012
Mourning Chorus (Phoenix), Sheffer Gallery, Sydney, Australia, 25 June 2012
Mourning Chorus, Auckland, New Zealand 2009
Playhouse, Devonport, New Zealand 2008
Boy, Brighton, United Kingdom 2001
Sal Higgens, London, United Kingdom 2000
Freize, London, United Kingdom 2000

Selected Group Exhibitions / Awards 1998 -2012

Face Apart, Salerno Gallery, Sydney
She Who Can, Walker Street Gallery, Melbourne (Finalist)
Glebe Art Show, Sydney (Highly Commended)
Summer Exhibition, Leamington Studio Artists, UK
Warwickshire Arts Week Showcase, Compton Verney Art Gallery and Museum, UK
Waikato Society of Arts Painting and Printmaking Award, Hamilton, New Zealand (Finalist)
National Drawing Award of New Zealand, Auckland (Finalist)
Molly Morpeth Canaday Painting Award, Auckland (Finalist)
Empire National Youth Art Award, New Zealand (Winner)
Watakere Art Awards, Waitakere (Finalist)
Adam Portraiture Award, Wellington (Finalist)
Hans Brinker Hotel, Amsterdam, Holland
Taps and Soap, Small Mansions, Gunnersbury Park, London
But what a Eye!, The North Gallery, Brighton
Heatherly's School of Fine Art, Summer Show (Selected), London
London Riverside Studios, Hammersmith London

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wednesday to saturday 11am to 6pm // www.sheffergallery.com // www.salhiggens.co.uk