

COMMERCIAL VALUE

JACK BISHOP

PERSONNEL TO THE SALES FLOOR FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE, PLEASE.
GALLERY PAGE & STRANGE, HALIFAX.
APRIL 7-18, 2008.

Can a painting still excite today? The answer for many, especially many of those reading this magazine, think the answer obvious. And it may be obvious to, again, ask the question in light of ubiquitous HD TVs or the inescapable Internet, the endless online video on YouTube, or online imagery from your friends' latest snapshots on Facebook to the photo galleries pretty much every major newspaper offers as part of their web presence.

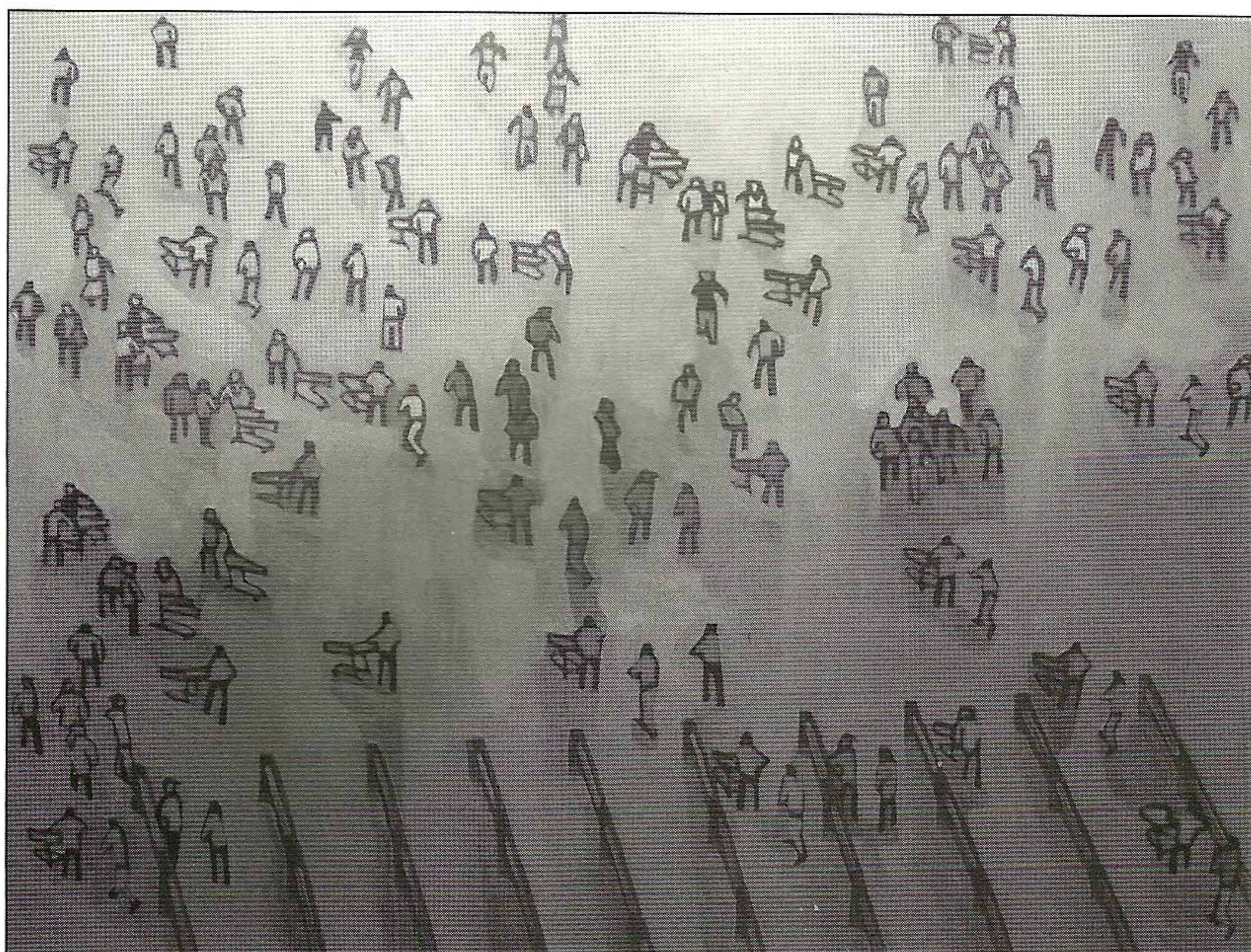
All these images, views and insights are supposed to *excite* interest, the senses, the mind. But often they don't. Partly because on a computer's monitor—no matter the quality—they look flat, are flattened or are drained of life and energy.

Not so with Jack Bishop. In the case of his paintings, including the show earlier this spring at Gallery Page and Strange, they look *good* on a screen. They excite despite the containment in pixilated form and distance from the actual surface or object. This goes to the rich gradients of colour made by Bishop and used to create movement and form, space and perspective. Moving from darker tones to light, the flow occurs as a rush of people to the centre of the action, the racks where the best deals are found, in his latest series of paintings, *Customer Service Please*. Colour directs, controls, the viewer's seeing across the surface, while penetrating its depths too.

Bishop still loves that hot, popping colour to underscore the mood and tone of the scenes that interest him—this time mad shopping as an expression of materialist culture and consumerism, before they were crammed parking lots in front of, one could imagine, big-box stores and endless lanes of backed-up traffic. For this newer series,



Jack Bishop, *Over the Counter*.
Oil on canvas, 91.44 cm x 91.44 cm.



Jack Bishop, *Variety Pack*.
Oil on canvas, 91.44 cm x 121.92 cm.