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Pierre Durette's war-themed works mix crusaders with space age combatants

by SACHA JACKSON

It's been two years since Montreal-based artist Pierre Durette started work on his war-themed series *Dévotion*, but unlike most works of art depicting battles and conquests, Durette's pieces are timeless.

"I wanted to combine elements of history, so I researched the history of art and did some anthropological research, mostly on civilizations," Durette says. "Each work is a story, and the wars that are depicted are anachronistic, with references to more than one civilization or historical moment."

In "Dévotion 25," one of 15 paintings in the running for the RBC Canadian Painting Competition's top prize (on view at the MAC October 8-18), you can find Civil War soldiers, chain-mailed crusaders, samurai warriors and space-age combatants.

What started as simple line drawings (you can see this progression at pierredurette.com) has become a complex, darkly funny commentary on our civilization, past, present and future.

"The white background allows for the work to travel," he says. "You don't know when it was produced or where it was produced."

You can see work by all the competition semi-finalists at: rbc.com/sponsorship ■



ELEPHANT MAN INVADES HISTORY: "Dévotion 26," detail