

A DIALOGUE IN SOLITUDE: Raphael Sottolichio



For the first time in Montreal, Raphael Sottolichio's exhibition "An enterprise of solitude" gathers over thirty pieces produced between 2003 and 2005. These colorful paintings develop the portrait theme. Without trying to express the inner figure, the artist focuses instead on the relationship of closeness between the individual and the consuming society as a constructive element of the identity.

These realistic paintings highlight figures interacting with strange components. Isolated within narrative and symbolic scenes, the prominent solitude aspect takes over the situation regardless of the co-existing objects.

Many aspects of the relationship between the individual and its environment are developed. In *Le Bateau*, the artist speaks of ecological concerns. In *Horror Vacui*, the statement is more of a critic regarding an exaggerated consumption. *Life on Mars* is, on another level of symbolic meaning, a tribute of a David Bowie song about the colonization myth of the red planet. Many references guide the viewer as in *Les clones*, engaging in dialogue with Rembrandt's *The Anatomy Lecture of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp* and interacting through an allegorical theme in the canvas *Dans la caverne* with Plato.

Originally from Chili, Raphael Sottolichio has participated in many exhibitions throughout Québec, Ontario and the east coast. A number of his original paintings were exhibited for a solo show at Observatoire 4 in the spring of 2000, as well as at La maison de la culture Mont-Royal in the summer of 2002. This winter, he will represent the Québec in a French cultural event hosted in Niamey, Nigeria, in December 2005.



This page: *Le Bateau Coule* by Raphael Sottolichio

Left page: *Le Cauchemar D'Alberti* by Raphael Sottolichio

An enterprise of solitude by Raphael Sottolichio
December 3rd to December 30th 2005
Galerie Orange
81 Saint-Paul East
Montreal, PQ
www.galerieorange.com