

Richard Ewen

Window of Paris

Contemporary Watercolor Painting Exhibition by Richard Ewen (USA)



《櫥窗·巴黎》美國畫家Richard Ewen 當代水彩畫展

S I S L E Y

State-of-the-Arts Gallery

“WINDOW OF PARIS”

Contemporary Watercolor Painting Exhibition by Richard Ewen (USA)

This exhibition showcases a whole new series of Ewen’s watercolor paintings, inspired by his adventures on the street of Paris and the striking window displays he found there. The exhibition runs from 4th to 9th February, 2012.

Richard Ewen's paintings of window displays on Paris streets are a contemporary version of traditional still life paintings. To Ewen, still life paintings are most intimate to humans; they reflect our daily life and represent what we value in our daily lives. His realistic paintings are partly based upon photographs taken at random while wandering the streets of Paris. The artist looks for eye-catching window displays and transforms this kind of commercial presentation into a fine art form through his use of watercolor. Window displays are commercial goods made to impress people in this fast changing society; they thus have to be colorful, cheerful and fast changing as well. In order to communicate to the viewers, window displays employ different social symbols that help transmit their messages, reflecting a society's culture and history. Ewen, in his brightly colored paintings, reflects present day Paris, and European culture as well as the influence history and architecture has had on this beautiful city. The window display is the mirror of our urban life, with bold colors, chic fashion design and energy. Ewen is an artist who injects movement in still life paintings, redefining the genre itself.

Ewen's watercolor paintings require planning and concentration as watercolor is a medium that dries quickly and cannot be altered. To portray the reflections one sees in the window glass, Ewen has to achieve the layering of paint with care and precision. This American born artist had his first solo exhibition in Texas in 2007; this is his first solo exhibition in Asia. He was also appointed the Artist-in-Residence by Dorland Mountain Arts Colony (California, 1991 & 1992) and awarded the Best of Show Grumbacher Award by the Eastern Washington Watercolor Society (Washington, 1991).

《櫥窗·巴黎》

美國畫家Richard Ewen 當代水彩畫展

State-of-the-Arts 畫廊展出美國畫家Richard Ewen 的最新水彩系列《櫥窗·巴黎》，這批作品靈感來自Ewen 閒時於巴黎大街小巷遊蕩 所看到的風光見聞。

Richard Ewen 的作品描繪巴黎時尚大街的櫥窗展示，他的作品由傳統靜物寫生 (Still Life) 衍生，卻加入了當代藝術的元素。Ewen 認為靜物寫生跟人們最接近，反映著人們每天生活，以及當中包含的價值觀和個人生活態度。他的創作以街景照片和他於巴黎街道的實際體驗為藍圖。他不斷地於街上尋找搶眼奪目的櫥窗展示，再用畫筆和色彩將這種商業藝術轉化為繪畫藝術。櫥窗展示屬於商業的一種，以鮮艷色彩，歡樂氣氛和時尚鋪排在這個日新月異的社會吸引途人目光。作為溝通橋樑，櫥窗展示運用很多跟當地文化和歷史有關的象徵手法。Ewen 便是要在他的作品反映今天和昨天的巴黎。這些櫥窗水彩畫是現今都市生活的寫照，刻劃出都市的活力，繽紛和時尚。在畫中可看到Ewen 為靜物寫生注入的動力。

水彩是流動性高的媒體，需要畫家的全神貫注。尤其在Ewen 的櫥窗寫生中描繪的倒影，在重疊一層又一層水彩的過程，畫家更需謹慎處理。Ewen 於2007 年首次舉辦個展，這次是他於亞洲首次展出作品。他於1991 和1992 年被美國加州多藍山藝術村委任為駐場藝術家，亦於1991 年獲華盛頓水彩畫會頒發Grumbacher 最佳作品大獎。

RICHARD EWEN

EDUCATION

- 1971 Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills Michigan, MFA
1965-69 University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio
1964 Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, BA in History and Fine Art

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2009 Watercolor Workshop, Williamson County Art Guild, Georgetown, Texas
2008-2009 Instructor in Painting, 8th Street Studios, Georgetown, TX
1999 Watercolor Workshop, Mar Vista Schools, Los Angeles, California.
Watercolor techniques and demonstrations for grade school students.
1998 Watercolor Workshop, Laguna Hills Art Association, Laguna Hills, California.
Watercolor mixing and painting techniques for Professional Artists.
1997 Instructor, Watercolor Painting, Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles, California.
1994 Founded "Watercolors of France." Annual commissioning of paintings for clients in the United States and France of the French countryside and Paris.
1978 Instructor, Screen Printing, Art Center School of Design, Los Angeles, California.
1971-1973 Gemini G.E.L. Publishers, Los Angeles, California. Printed editions of lithographs and serigraphs.
1968 Instructor in Drawing, Toledo Museum of Art School of Design, Toledo, Ohio.
1965-69 Instructor of Fine Art, Toledo Public Schools, Toledo, Ohio.

AWARDS

- 1992 Artist-in-Residence, Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Temecula, California.
Awarded a two week retreat to paint landscapes in Southern California deserts.
1991 Artist-in-Residence, Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Temecula, California.
Awarded a session to study watercolor painting en plein air.
1991 Best of Show Grumbacher Award, Eastern Washington Watercolor Society Richland, Washington.

PUBLICATIONS

- Austin Chronicle, "Five New Talents", Arts Review, September 25, 2009
Paris Notes, "Paris Paintings", Volume 5, Issue 3, April, 1996
Traveler's Bookcase Newsletter "Paris Front Man", Fall-Winter, 1994-95
Rocky Mountain News, "Artists Can't Hide In Watercolor", July 29, 1990
Los Angeles Times Magazine, "Ranch Style Revamped", January, 1988
Middletown Journal, "Tale of Two Cities On Savings of America Branch Wall Mural", August 29, 1988
Ohio News Bureau, Inc, Cleveland, Ohio, "Savings of America Opens", August 30, 1988



EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 "Rivers" Group Show, July 9-August 4, Wally workman Gallery, Austin, Texas
- 2010 Featured Solo Exhibit, November 1- 20, Artisan's at Rocky Hill Gallery, Fredericksburg, Texas
- 2010 "30th Anniversary Show", August 5-31, Wally Workman Gallery, Austin, Texas
- 2010 Bastille Day Show, July 14, Huff Harrington Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2010 "Grand Affair" Group Show, January 9 - 30, Wally Workman Gallery, Austin, Texas
- 2009 "Feast" Group Show, December 4 - 24, Wally Workman Gallery, Austin, Texas
- 2009 "Art For Fall" Group Show, October 2 - 30, Georgetown Public Library, Georgetown, Texas
- 2009 "5 New Talents" Group Show, September 12 - October 1, Wally Workman Gallery, Austin, Texas
- 2009 "Homage to Georgetown", Featured Artist, April 1 - 31, Framers' Gallery, Georgetown, Texas
- 2009 People's Gallery Group Show, Austin City Hall, Austin, Texas
- 2008 Watermarks, The Gallery at Amplify Federal Credit Union, Austin, Texas
- 2007 One Person Show, November 1 - 30, Lotus Gallery. Austin, Texas
- 2006 Group Show, Dell Community Center, Austin, Texas
- 2000 La Quinta Arts Festival, La Quinta, California

SELECTED CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

- Hotel LaTour-Maubourg, Paris, France
- Hotel Manoir de Contres, Contres, France
- Hotel Valadon, Paris, France
- C.S.Thomas, Paris, France
- Texas Realtor's Association, Austin Texas
- Nick Berman Designs, Los Angeles, California
- Fischbach And Fishbach, Century City, California
- Heritage Square Foundation, Pasadena, California
- Home Savings Of America. Paintings and Mosaics in three branch banks:
Berwyn, Illinois, Middletown, Ohio, and Marysville, Ohio
- Mansour Travel, Los Angeles, California
- Pettit And Martin, Los Angeles, California
- Raleigh Enterprises, Los Angeles, California
- Southland Pension Services, Santa Monica, California
- Triad Productions, Century City, California
- Universal Studios Florida, Orlando, California
- French American Chamber Of Commerce, Los Angeles, California
- Weinstock, Manion, Reisman, Shore & Newman, Los Angeles, California



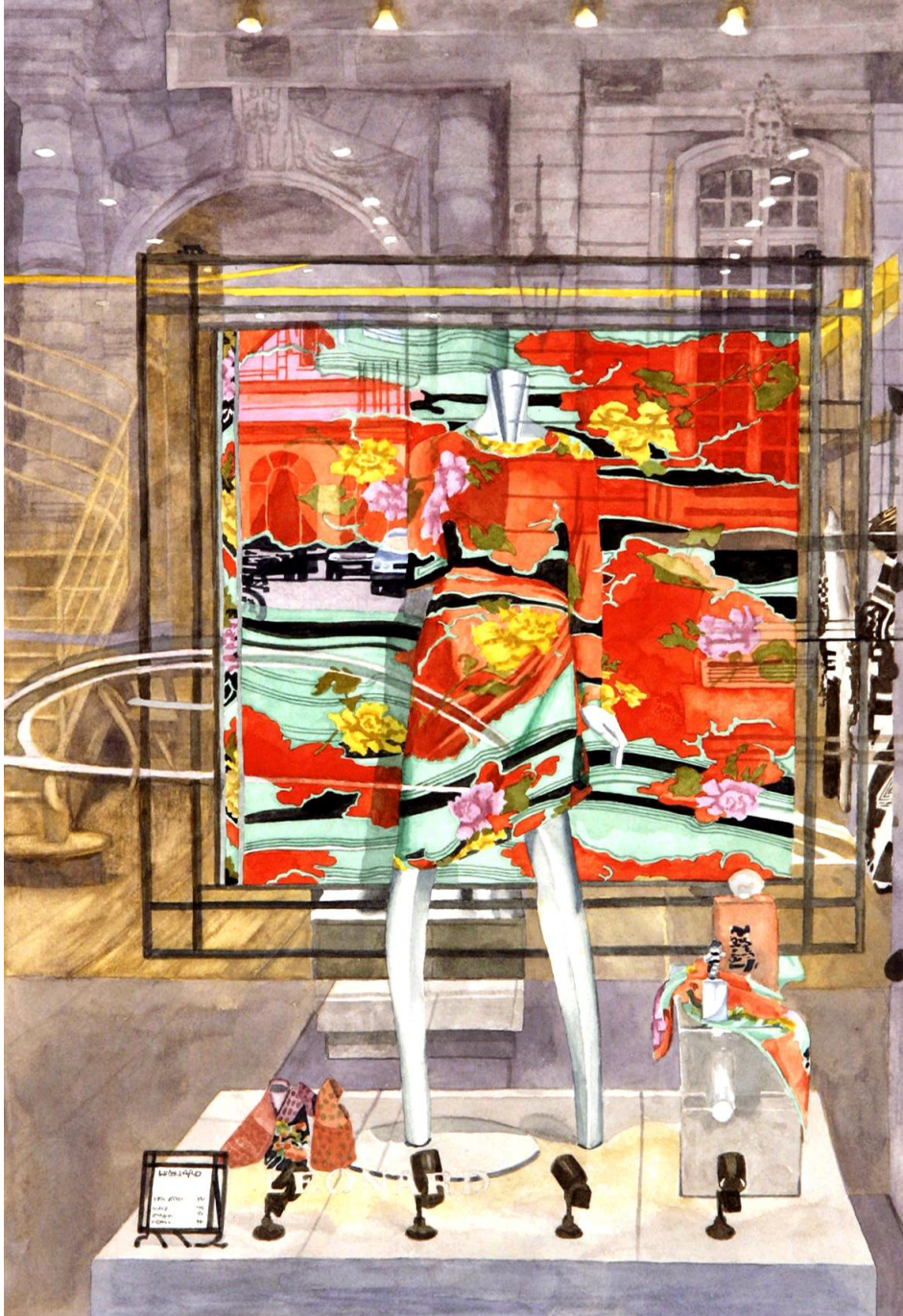
“This manikin in the window of a Giorgio Armani store window is leaning on a pedestal hidden by the reflecting light of the glass. Across the street just above the gold topped iron fence spikes is a horse and buggy that is used for sightseeing rides. The dark outside areas of the window glass are tinted so they reflect more from the street.” Richard Ewen



“The elegant suits are in perfect harmony with the formal architecture of the building across the street reflected in the window. For added elegance the manikins and clothing accessories in front are placed next to cans of elite chocolate beans” Richard Ewen



“The old architecture of yellow green painted wood and a column of rough stone has been retained in this modernized shop window of antique women's wear. The reflections of art deco balcony railings from the building across the street add to the old charm.” Richard Ewen



“Putting the same fabric on the manikin in front of a large screen of the fabric creates a powerful image of pattern and color. The formal architecture from across the street contrasts with the modern manikin and its clothing. You can make out a metal staircase inside the store on the left side of the painting.” Richard Ewen



Aperitifs / Watercolor on fine art paper / 86 x 56 cm / 2010



“On the right shoppers crowd racks of clothing on the street outside a store window with threatening skies. Inside the store are two manikins dressed in modern hip style placed in front of a photograph of a beach. The spot lights on the manikins give the colors inside the window a warm glow. The head of the woman shopper in the right front foreground is actually outside the plane of the window and her back side is reflected in the window to the viewer's left.” Richard Ewen





“All kinds of hats. In the left panel you can see an ochre cloth hanging down behind a rack of summer hats. On the right panel some men's hats are mixed in. In the lower right front of the window is a sailor's hat in front of a painting from the very popular cartoon “Les Aventures de Tintin.”

The pedestrian is wearing a hat similar to what would be found inside.” Richard Ewen





“This two panel painting was inspired by the umbrella store once owned by Madame Gely located on boulevard St. Germain. The displays here are always colorful and the umbrellas seem to float out of the plane of the windows into the surrounding air. Many of the small folded umbrellas have interesting carved animal heads. The colors are always bright and vibrant, particularly on a rainy day in Paris. Still in operation by new owners the umbrellas are very well made.

Notice the reflections of the windows and balconies from across the Boulevard. There are paper birds hanging from the ceiling in the right panel, and clear spheres in the left panel. The plane trees lining the streets blend in with the greenery placed around the inside of the window.”
Richard Ewen



“I included the old window decoration in this painting of makeup mirrors. The old lamp hanging above the shelves of mirrors is actually inside the store. You can make out three or four pedestrians walking in the street. Their shadows on the walk indicate the water from a passing shower. Their umbrellas are hidden by the row of mirrors.” Richard Ewen



“Two hip girl manikins walking past an old 1913 photo of a beach. Reflected behind them is a metal support pole from inside the store that happens to line up with a traffic light on the street. I like the juxtaposition of old and new.

You can just make out the outline of a car door on the left.” Richard Ewen



“The bright sunlight and contrasting dark shadows from the archways create a very interesting scene in the 17th century Place des Vosges. You can see the architecture of mixed brick and stone of this beautiful square in the Marais on the left. The arch’s shadows make the objects inside the antique store show up clearly while the areas bleached by the sun reflect the areas outside. It looks like you are inside the store, but the cars and buildings and trees are actually reflected in the window.

You can just make out a small sculpture sitting on a table in the center foreground of the painting.” Richard Ewen



“The items in the window are very subtle here as the light outside is fairly gray. You can see the manikin wearing a tan jacket sitting on a large red die with crossed legs in tan boots. The duck and valise are props. The stripes of the pedestrian crossing create a strong pattern drawing in the eye of the viewer.” Richard Ewen



“The white bathtub! Save the Queen is an English clothing store. The manikin has a wire head and crown shape that is the store’s logo, repeated in black iron holding back the curtain. Her legs are on wheels. The windows from across the street create a nice rhythm showing up behind the red curtain.” Richard Ewen



“Many store windows have mirrors along side the windows. I placed this male pedestrian in a light blue-gray suit in front of a window as if he were walking down the street away from the viewer. I painted in the female pedestrian reflected in the center mirror just as she appeared in my photograph. The manikins in the window seem like statues watching over the traffic.

You can see the trees reflected in the window glass as well as the large hanging fluorescent lights inside the store. “ Richard Ewen



“Just at the top of the stairs leading into the Metro stop “Mabillon” on Boulevard St. Germain is this magnificent store window with a metal and glass awning. A large photo of a young woman in summer wear and the bright clothing of the manikins contrasts with the gray, rainy day. You can see pedestrians walking up the stairs putting up their umbrellas.” Richard Ewen



“The culture of France has been strongly influenced by Asia beginning in the late 19th century with the opening of Japan to trade with Europe. A flood of Japanese woodcuts and fabrics influenced many European painters, especially the Impressionists. There are many restaurants in Paris that serve food fused from Asian countries with that of France.

What caught my eye particularly about this window was the light ochre wooden and bamboo bowls and hats displayed with dried grains. The dragonfly was too beautiful to ignore.”

Richard Ewen



Artist Richard Ewen

Since 1993 Richard Ewen has worked part time in France painting landscapes in the Ile de France and cityscapes in nearby Paris. Concentrating on walking the streets of Paris and taking random photographs from which to paint, Mr. Ewen captures the essence of objects in the windows of the storefronts and cafes and restaurants as well as the mirror-like image of the action of the street behind the viewer. This creates an intricate, multiple-layered, painting of strong colors and complex action.

"I think of a still life painting as equivalent to a string quartet in music, and a landscape or cityscape like a symphony. My work combines the still life quality of a store window display or cafe table and the cityscape reflections of the street behind the viewer as an interesting and sometimes complex composition."



Walking the streets of Paris with a camera and fortified with a croissant or two and a cafe au lait, Richard Ewen takes photographs of the magnificent store window displays and the reflections on the glass surfaces of the street life outside. Indoors Ewen takes random pictures of food and drink on cafe and restaurant tables. From these captured moments he creates paintings, in watercolor and oil, in his studio that reveal the hidden details of life in Paris that many people experience but few notice. The paintings are colorful and complex and reflect the many facets of city life in Paris. Browse through the pages of paintings by clicking on the subjects above.



State-of-the-Arts Gallery is a wonderful gallery to visit both for the wide range of art it has to offer from artists all over the world, and for the setting, on beautiful cobbled Pottinger Street, in Central.

Since opening in 2003 State-of-the-Arts Gallery has organized numerous exhibitions, charity functions and special events for an array of artists worldwide. It has rapidly established itself as a contemporary international fine arts gallery featuring artists from countries across the continents: from Austria to other parts of Europe like France and England; and from Australia to Latin American countries including Mexico, Chile and Columbia. The Gallery offers purchase, lease, or commission of a variety of artwork including paintings, sculptures, photographs and glassware. All artworks are selected within the parameter of high quality and collection value.

Our works share the common characteristics of conceptual originality, thematic consistency, and refined techniques. As well as this, sharing the artists' self-cultivation and philosophy of art has always been our priority when promoting commercial art. This ensures that our customers know about the artist and the work that they are interested in, adding a personal touch. In working with artists from all over the world, we get a range of techniques and content in the art that we show.

Each artist brings to their art their different cultural influences and their own style, adding individual flair. With such a broad range of art, the overriding commonality is high quality at a reasonable price, which makes visitors sure to find something that they love.

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