



Thomas Frontini

Thomas Frontini, a Cleveland artist, is recognized for his superior painting ability as well as his subliminal depiction of contemporary issues.

Thomas Frontini's oil paintings are based on the premise that no matter how we may change and advance technologically, human consciousness is stuck in instinctual traps. Since this sad fact dooms man to a never-ending cycle of repeating past mistakes,

Frontini translates dreamlike visions into parables of warning.

Although his fantasies evoke a surface irrationality, they often stem from reality based on current events. Add inspiration from ancient myths and art historical

traditions, and the layers of meaning are difficult to digest in one gulp. They percolate slowly through a mixture of symbolist allegory, ancient mythology and surrealist landscapes. Like symphonic poems, general themes are loaded with significant elements that stress timelessness.

When 19th century artist Francisco Goya produced "Dreams of Reason Produces Monsters", he warned that when fantasy abandons reason, it produces monsters. Although Frontini tempers his interior visions with reason, they often mirror depths of fear. Fantasy and reality are always clashing in our consciousness, particularly in our dreams.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Adjunct Professor in Advanced Painting, Cleveland Institute of Art Cleveland, Ohio 2005
- Graduate Teaching Assistant for Life Drawing The Ohio State University Columbus, Ohio 1991-92

EDUCATION

- The Ohio State University – Columbus, Ohio M.F.A. Painting Degree, 1992
- Cleveland Institute of Art – Cleveland, Ohio B.F.A. Painting Degree, 1990
- The Institute for Art and Restoration – Florence, Italy 1989

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- Lawrence Asher Gallery - Los Angeles, California 2006
- Josaphat Arts Hall Convivium33 Gallery - Cleveland, Ohio 2005
- Heights Arts – Cleveland, Ohio 2004
- Space 700 – New York, NY 1995

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2006
- Hastings on the Court, Sarasota, Florida



2005

- 8-Hour Drawings, Bowman and Penelec Galleries, Allegheny College NEO+ONE Show Curated By Ellen Rudolph. Cleveland, Ohio
- Emily Davis Gallery, Man and Beast. curated by Mark Soppland. Akron, Ohio
- Lawrence Asher Gallery. LA, CA. Curated by James Panozzo
- Palm Beach Community College, Goup Show. Lake Worth, FL
- ALL Gallery, Two-Artist Exhibition. New Haven, CT.
- Heights Arts Group Show of Drawings Curated by William Busta. Ohio

2004

- Elevation Art Gallery, Fall Group Show. Cleveland, Ohio
- Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, California. : "Pareidolia" Curated by Eleanor Antin
- The Cleveland Foundation Art Gallery, Curated by Joanne Cohen. Cleveland, Ohio
- In America Now, Curated by Peter Frank for The Don O'Melveny Gallery, Hollywood, CA.
- Caladan Gallery, "Modern Visionaries: Mind, Spirit, and the Imagination": Beverly, Mass.
- Spaces Gallery, It's a Wonderful Life: Psychodrama in Contemporary Painting. Cleveland, Ohio

1990 - 2003

- Cleveland Clinic Shows curated by Teresa Dechant. Cleveland, Ohio 2002-2003
- James Graham and Sons Gallery - New York, NY 1998 - 2000
- Martin Chasin Fine Arts Gallery – Fairfield, CT 1992 – 1993
- Gen Art - New York, NY 1998
- Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art – Cleveland Ohio 1992 - 1994
- Artist Space, Drawings - New York, NY 1996
- Artist Space, Drawings - New York, NY 1995
- Gen Art - New York, NY 1995
- Barney's New York Red Windows - New York, NY 1995
- Chattahoochee Valley Arts Museum, Lagrange National XVI – Lagrange, GA 1992
- The Wichita Center for the Arts – Wichita, KS 1992
- Bridgeport University - Bridgeport, CT 1991
- Newman Religious Art Show – Cleveland, OH 1991
- Columbus Art League – Columbus, OH 1991
- Zanesville Art Center, Watercolor Ohio – Zanesville, OH 1990
- The Canton Art Institute, All Ohio – Canton, OH 1990
- Newman Religious Art Show – Cleveland, OH 1990
- James M. Cox Fine Arts Center – Columbus, OH 1990
- Cleveland Museum of Art, May Show Exhibition – Cleveland, OH 1990

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2006

- 2/28/06 ArtScene article by Elenore Welles about Los Angeles solo show at Lawrence Asher Gallery
- 01/26/2006 WVIZ TV Applause Arts Show on PBS. Interview in the gallery space and in the studio. by Dennis Knowles
- 01/22/06 Art Lover Transforms Old Church into Gallery by Jesse Tinsley, Cleveland Plain Dealer



2005

- January '05 Scene Magazine Issue 24: Convivium33 Review by Douglas Max Utter
- 12/21/05 Artist on the half-shell: Thomas Frontini's "Birth of a Great Balladeer," Scene Magazine by Zachary Lewis
- 12/16/05 Ironically Iconic Thomas Frontini's allegorical paintings inaugurate Convivium33 Gallery. FreeTimes By Lyz Bly
- October '05 Scene Magazine Issue #22 -:The Crying Game by Am Bracken Sparks
- 05/08/05 Northern Ohio Live "Man+Beast Review"
- 05/07/05 Akron University Press
- 2005 Direct Art Magazine Volume 11
- 4/15/05 LA Weekly: Calender * Picks of the Week : Peter Franks list of "Also recommended:" shows to see
- 3/22/05 The Bushtelite : Inner Animal by Rick Vocicka
- 3/12/05 By Judy Birke review of Recent Works at Arts + Lit Lab Merit Closer Inspection. New Haven Register
- 1/14/05 Water, Water Everywhere. Plain Dealer By Dan Tranberg

2004

- Angle Magazine Second Annual Literary Issue *Featured Artist
- Cleveland Plain Dealer, Arts & Life, Review of Thomas Frontini Recent Work at the HeightsArts Gallery, by Amy Sparks
- Cleveland Sun Press, Recent Work, Thomas Frontini's Opening night.
- Cleveland Plain Dealer, Arts & Life, A Wonderful Show about Alienation
- Cleveland Scene Magazine, See/Be Seen, When Dreams Die
- Cleveland FreeTimes, Arts & Pop Culture, Perchance to Dream

AWARDS

- Direct Art Magazine 2005 Spring Summer issue Volume 11 - Awarded 2 page spread. *see press section for visual.
- 2005 Pelham Art Center Alexander Rutsch Award and Exhibition for Painting- One of 6 finalists.
- In America Now, Curated by Peter Frank for The Don O'Melveny Gallery, Hollywood, CA. 2004 - top award
- Sara Jane Pyne Materials Grant. The Ohio State University 1992
- Harold and Bernice Louis Scholarship Award. The Ohio State University 1992
- Jurors Award. Chattahoochee Valley Arts Museum 1991
- Honorable Mention in Painting. Bridgeport Area Arts Council 1991
- OWS Award of Excellence. Watercolor Ohio 1990
- Special Mention in Painting. Cleveland Museum of Art, May Show 1990
- Handmade Book Competition. Jessica R. Gund Memorial Library 1990