

AVANT DUCK

A NEW PROJECT BY MARTHA MAYER ERLEBACHER

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DECEMBER 1, 2007 - JANUARY 27, 2008

Appearing as if from a surreal dream, Martha Mayer Erlebacher has crafted a history of modern art starring a Duck. In fifty plus paintings, she escorts the viewer through the modern aesthetic, Duck after Duck. Erlebacher is simultaneously irreverent and serious. How did the idea hatch for using a Duck? Initially, a particular ceramic duck became the object of the artist's fascination while instructing a painting workshop. The workshop ended, but the Duck remained with the artist and became her malleable, iconic hero and subsequent tour guide to a hundred years of art history. Reused and reimagined, the Duck serves as a consistent tool for the artist to portray her understanding of history, technique, and composition, all with tongue planted firmly in beak. It should be noted that the New Yorker cartoonist, Joe Doaks, reported an online survey that found the Duck to be the most humorous animal for artists. Ducks are funny.

Through exhibition, publication, and film, our culture has selected a few artists who have a signature body of work for which they are universally known; Pollock

- his drip paintings, Picasso - cubism, Warhol - Marilyn. Martha Erlebacher has the Avant Duck. That said, her own work, sans Duck, by which she has gained national recognition as a painter cannot be ignored. Erlebacher has dedicated forty years to the rigors and pleasures of still life and figurative painting. Within the plumage of the Avant Duck series, the viewer is offered her lessons of a lifetime as a painter. Her decades of labor as a realist painter ennoble this series, elevating Avant Duck from simple parody to artistic homage.

Surreal Duck to Postmodern Duck, Avant Duck's historical joyride exalts the canon of modern and contemporary painting even as it sabotages its masters. Martha Erlebacher nestles into the vocabulary of Picasso without leaving the conceit of her own humor. She is the master of mimesis as she investigates Chuck Close's abstract pixilation finding her own stylization and exaggeration of Closian technique. With great patience and a sly wink, Erlebacher masters each style before re-mastering it in her own tribute to modern artists. The artists acknowledged in this series have made a



PLATE 1

celebrated contribution to the lexicon of modern art. It is surely a feather in their cap to be visited by the Avant Duck.

A Fowl History of Modern Art parades across the canvases for the pure joy of seeing great paintings made new and fresh. Erlebacher and Avant Duck sidestep the money,

politics, and superstar egos of the art world and return us to a delightful moment of innocence and humor. Upon viewing these imaginative and finely crafted paintings, it becomes clear that Martha Mayer Erlebacher most certainly has her Ducks in a row.

Susan Bush, Curator of Contemporary Art



PLATE 2

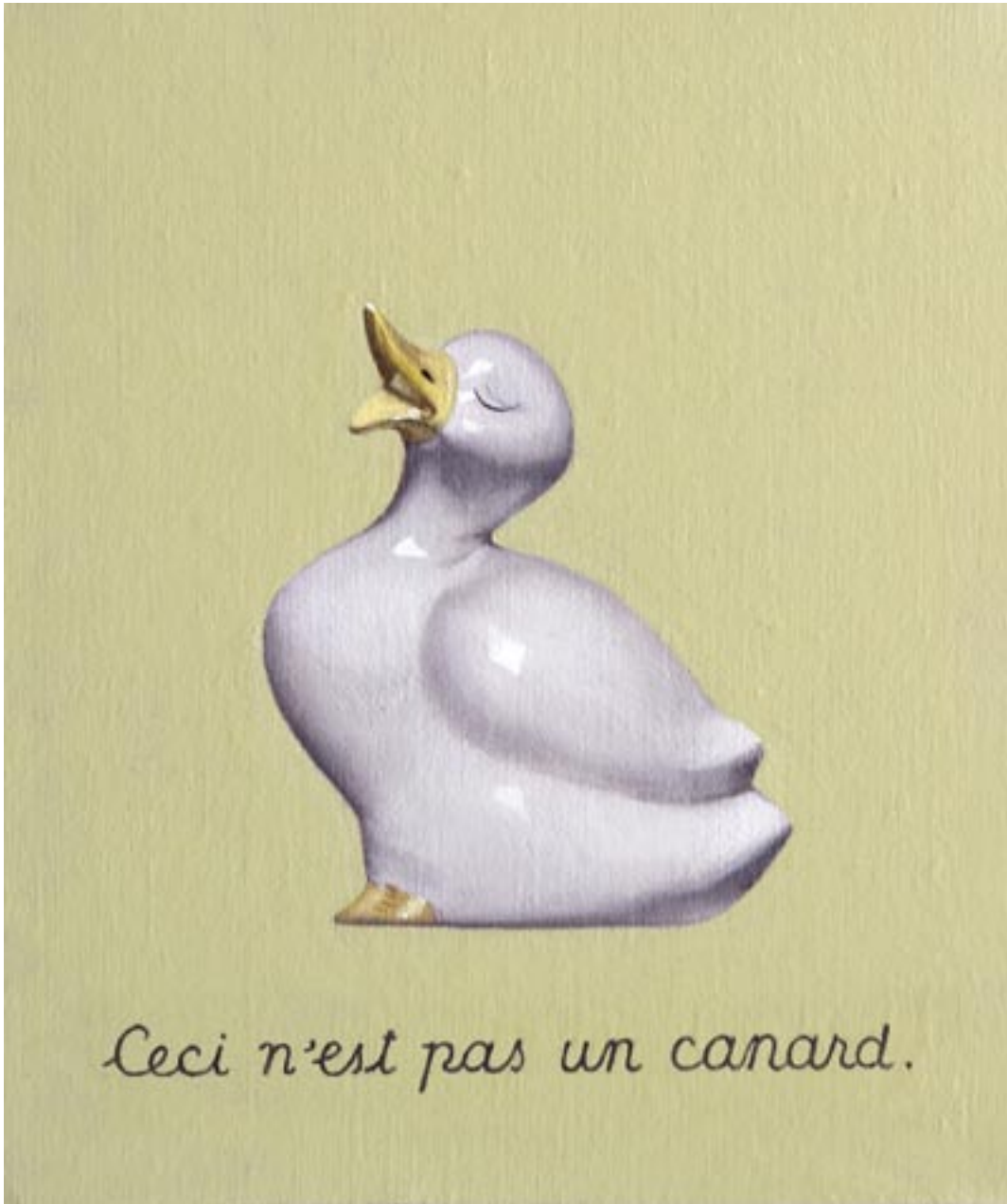
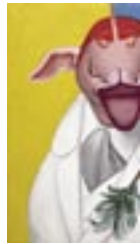




PLATE 4



PLATE 5



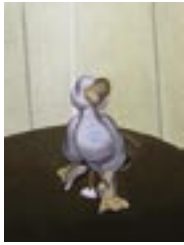




PLATE 6



PLATE 7

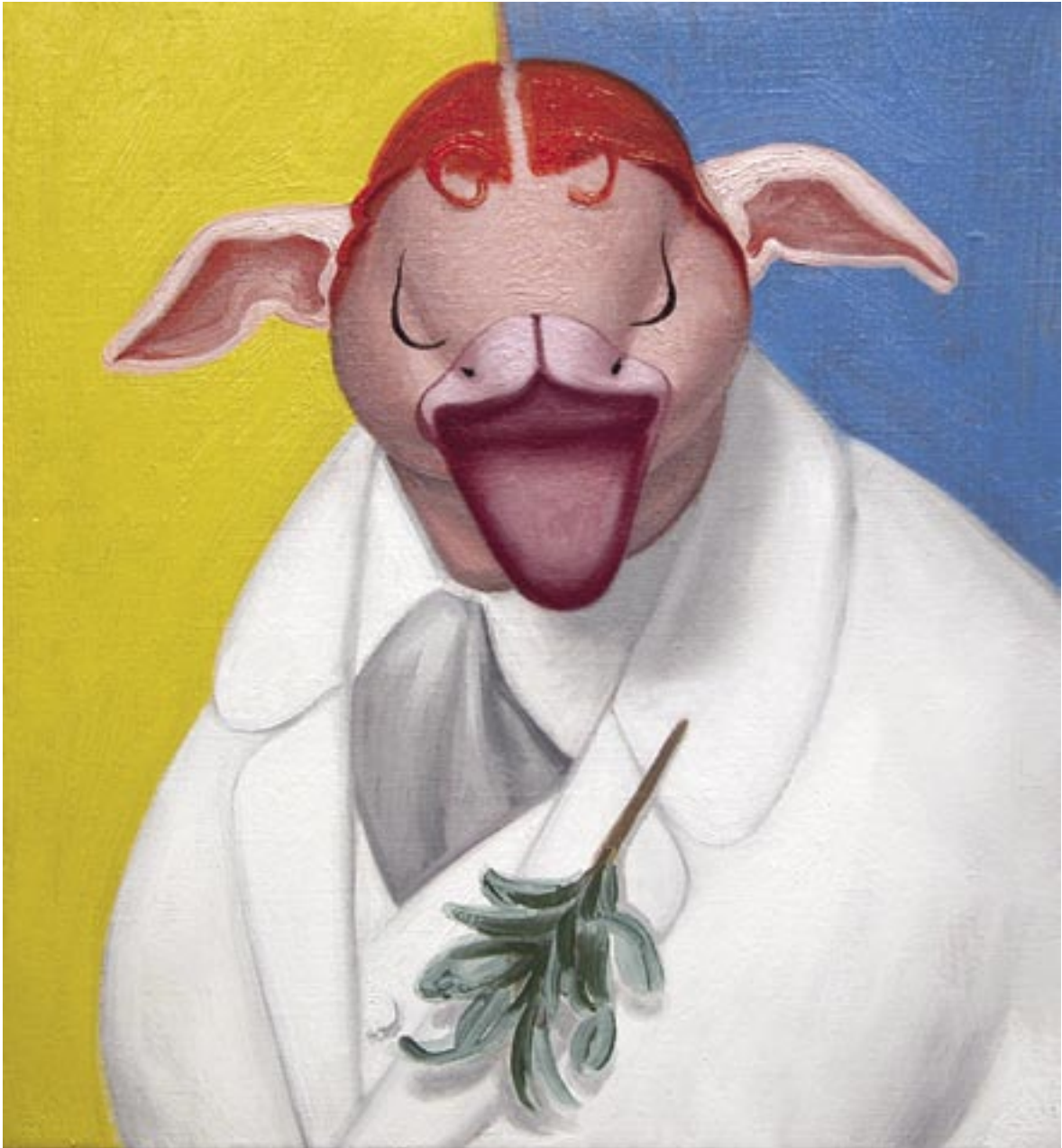


PLATE 8



PLATE 9

TO PREVIEW THE EXHIBITION ONLINE, VISIT:

http://www.sullivangoss.com/exhibits/erlebacher_2007.asp

A HARD BOUND EXHIBITION CATALOG WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

Please contact the gallery to find out more.

LIST OF IMAGES:

FC.	M.D.M.L.D., 2005 (Marcel Duchamp's "L.H.O.O.Q.", 1919)	26 x 16 inches oil on canvas
1.	The Duck Sails To New York, 1999 (Martha Mayer Erlebacher)	12 x 21 inches oil on canvas
2.	The Quack, 2006 (Edvard Munch's "The Scream", 1893)	14 x 10 inches oil on canvas
3.	Ceci n'est pas un Canard, 2005 (René Magritte's "The Treachery of Images", 1928)	18 x 12 inches oil on canvas
4.	Red, White and Blue, 2006 (Georgia O'Keeffe's "Red, White and Blue", 1930)	13 x 12 inches oil on canvas
5.	Bird Before a Mirror, 2006 (Pablo Picasso's "Girl Before a Mirror", 1932)	16 x 14 inches oil on canvas
6.	Drip Ducks, 2007 (Jackson Pollock drip painting c. 1948)	16 x 20 inches oil on canvas
7.	Nine Mallards, 2006 (Andy Warhol's "Marilyn Monroe", 1967)	18 x 14 inches mixed media on paper
8.	Self-Portrait, 2007 (Matthew Barney's "Satyr" from the Cremaster Cycle 4, 1994)	12 x 11 inches oil on canvas
9.	Wrapped (Duck a L'Orange), 2006 (Christo and Jeanne-Claude's "The Gates", 2005)	14 x 14 inches mixed media on canvas
10.	Balloon Duck, 2006 (Jeff Koon's "Rabbit", 1986)	6 x 9 inches mylar balloon
11.	Submerged, 2006 (Damien Hirst's "The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living", 1991)	14 x 16 inches oil on canvas
BC.	Atavistic Vestiges, 2005 (Salvador Dali's "Soft Construction with Boiled Beans (Premonition of Civil War)", 1936)	12 x 18 inches oil on canvas

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RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2007

FROM 5 -7 PM

7 EAST ANAPAMU STREET

SANTA BARBARA, CA



Sullivan Goss

AN AMERICAN GALLERY

*7 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 730-1460*

www.sullivangoss.com

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