

JORGE SIMES

Paintings & Drawings



Study for glorious painting, 1995 / casein, oil and smoke on paper.

February 28 - April 6, 1997
Community Gallery of Art
College of Lake County

JORGE SIMES

Painter



Baum, 1995 / casein and oil on paper

1. *Aquila electra*, 1995
Casein and oil on paper. 49" x 49"
\$2,500
2. *Interior (red)*, 1996
Casein and oil on paper. 49" x 49"
\$2,500
3. *Baum*, 1995
Casein and oil on paper. 50" x 49"
\$2,500
4. *Study for glorious painting*, 1995
Casein, oil and smoke on paper. 50"
x 49"
\$2,500
5. *Bridge*, 1995
Casein, oil, smoke and gold leaf on
paper. 32" x 32"
\$1,800
6. *Golden age*, 1995
Casein, oil, shellac and gold leaf on
paper. 24" x 48"
\$2,200
7. *Cri de guerre*, 1995
Casein, oil, and shellac on paper. 24"
x 48"
\$2,200
8. *Perspective (Mithra and shields)*,
1996
Casein, oil, shellac and smoke on
paper. 24" x 48"
\$2,200
9. *Elusive laurel wreath*, 1995
Casein, silver leaf and smoke on
paper. 24" x 48"
\$2,200

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10. *Gloria*, 1995
Bister, tempera and gold leaf on paper. 72" x 49"
\$3,800
11. *Charging (triptych)*, 1995
Sanguine and oil on paper. 72" x 100"
\$4,900
12. *Horses and eagles*, 1995
Bister, bister ink, and red ink on paper. 72" x 49"
\$3,800
13. *Duce (Homage to Gabriele D'Annunzio)*, 1995
Charcoal, tempera, oil, wood and glass. 70" x 120"
\$5,800
14. *Flower with two buds*, 1994
Blue ink wash and stamps on paper. 12" x 10"
\$700
15. *Chorus*, 1994
Ink wash, gold leaf, acrylic, sealing wax and smoke on paper. 12" x 10"
\$700
16. *Study for flag*, 1995
Casein, oil and gold leaf on paper. 15" x 18"
\$900



Interior (red), 1996 / casein and oil on paper.

JORGE SIMES

Biography

- 1960 Born in Cordoba, Argentina. Professor in Printmaking and Drawing, Academy of Fines Arts of Cordoba, Argentina.
(1978-85) Lives and works in Chicago.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 1996 Galeria Ramis Barquet, Monterrey, Mexico.
1995 Galerie Ruta Correa, Freiburg, Germany.
Galeria Der Brucke, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
1994 The Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago.
Galeria Ramis Barquet, Monterrey, Mexico.
1992 Galeria Ruth Benzacar, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
World Tattoo Gallery, Chicago.

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 1996 Art Frankfurt, Galerie Ruta Correa.
1995 Art Chicago, Galerie Ramis Barquet.
1994 Galerie Ramis Barquet, Monterrey, Mexico.
1993 New Staatsaal, Frechen, Germany.
1992 Bookworks, Washington D.C.
1991 Galerie Jacqueline Moussion, Paris, France
1990 The Chicago Show, The Chicago Cultural Center

Selected Grants and Awards

- 1990 New forms regional grant. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Rockefeller Foundations, supervised by the Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago.
1987 First Purchase Prize. VII Biennale of Maldonado, Uruguay
Gold and Silver Medal. LXXVI National Salon of Fine Arts.
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

JORGE SIMES

Paintings & Drawings

Jorge Simes, an Argentinean artist residing in Chicago, creates works which have their antecedents in European 18th century battle paintings. Unlike the traditional genre, his work does not celebrate war. Rather, he hopes to communicate how soldiers in all wars are anonymous prey to larger forces. Simes' invented battle scenes often incorporate coats of arms — the heraldic symbols that once identified families, kingdoms, and nations. Such symbols also once conveyed a call to arms. These emblems, in conjunction with words and representational images, transform historic events into images of contemporary relevance. His work often suggests that the present is shaped by the battle fields and political forces of the past.¹

In *Gloria* mounted soldiers brandishing swords slash their way across the battle ground. Heads are obscured by the eagle insignia of the Austrian empire while the vanquished foe bear the Serbian imperial eagle. Forces that shaped today's tragic national war in the former Yugoslavia are alluded to in the work. He also tells the viewer that history always puts the ruling powers and their representatives before the faceless masses who fought for them.²

Simes says, "I have always been interested in Leonardo's advice; look with care at spots of dampness, smoke, or sunbeams on walls. A chance pattern might suggest a battle scene or a maternity. In my recent work I want the scene of the battle, any protagonist or situation I am painting to suggest the presence of Leonardo's wall, of a wall populated with juxtapositions and references, both direct and oblique, concerning the subjects that I am working on..."³

Simes is constantly exploring unusual combinations of mixed media to create surfaces rich in visual textures. He employs a melange of both wet and dry media and exploits the unique properties of each. *Interior (red)*, for example, contrasts the crisp, opaque passages of casein paint against the semi-transparent and blended colors of oil paint. As in Leonardo's wall, chance application of certain media might initiate a work and suggest a theme to the artist. In *Study for Glorious Painting* chance marks created by smoke contrast against cherub figures both graphically as well as symbolically. Gold leaf, stamps, and wax seals are also part of his repertoire.

Simes' visual language appropriates elements of architectural and battle painting of the past into contemporary contexts. His subjects reference historical figures and events from the last two centuries. It has been said that those who do not understand the past are doomed to repeat it. Simes' art is a clarion call to wake up from our Sisyphus-like slumber and to move forward toward a new dawn.

References:

¹Alan G. Artner, "Simes Strips Glory from Battle Paintings" Chicago Tribune, Aug. 26, 1994, Sec. Friday, p. 62.

²Fabien Lebenglik, "War Paint" (Buenos Aires, Argentina: DER BRUCKE Ediciones, 1995), unpaginated

³Edward Shaw, "The agile vision of the voyager" (Monterrey, Mexico: GALERIA RAMIS BARQUET, 1994), unpaginated



Workshop by Simes: New Approaches to Mixed Media
Sat. March 22, 10-2 pm, room D101
Advanced registration required. Call (847) 543-2240

Gallery hours:

9:00 am-10:00 pm Mon-Thur

9:00 am- 4:30 pm Fri & Sat

1:00-5:00 pm Sun

March 24-30 spring break

Call for hours (847) 543-2240

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**Community Gallery of Art
College of Lake County
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