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PEREGRINE HEATHCOTE

Magic from the past



1

“The past can seem like a stage set, another world, an alternative existence. I love that unobtainable historical magic,” painter Peregrine Heathcote says of the inspiration for his nostalgic works of planes, trains and automobiles.

His paintings take place in the 1930s and '40s, when design and innovation were the playgrounds of the imagination. This is the era of the Tucker, the Spruce Goose, of Art Deco, of luxury of the highest caliber. These subjects and others will appear in *New Work: Peregrine Heathcote* opening December 27 at Bonner David Galleries in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Heathcote—who calls his work “romantic and figurative, often with a travel-related element”—says he’s often inspired by many different sources, including film and architecture. “Artists from all eras can be inspired by so many different

things, maybe the colors of a particular figure in a neoclassical painting to the scene in a film,” he says. “I choose my models very carefully and have endless casting calls with lengthy deliberations on which set of models to use for each picture. I recently have found a fantastically talented couple who really inspire some great poses, which can be seen in the next show at Bonner David.”

The show will include *An Infinity of Paths*, which features an elegantly dressed woman standing before a propeller-driven airliner with an audience attending to her—a ticket taker stands at attention, the plane’s pilot snaps a photo and even a nearby Mercedes-Benz seems to be saluting with its gullwing door. Other pieces include *Latest News*, with a woman at a newsstand; and *I Miss the Sea, It Reminds Me of When I Was a Girl*, with the same woman staring out into a harbor occupied by a four-

1
Latest News,
oil on canvas,
40 x 60"

2
*An Infinity of
Paths*, oil on
canvas,
40 x 60"

3
*Ready to Meet
Jeff*, oil on
canvas



2



3

funneled boat similar to the Titanic.

The London-born painter creates his works within sight of the ocean. "I recently found a beautiful plot of a couple of acres with an old carpenter's cottage on the edge of a beach wood and stunning 40-mile views over the rolling countryside, so I decided to move out of the city and set up my new studio amidst a more natural setting with fewer distractions," Heathcote says. "Not having the need to house my car, I decided to convert a double garage into my studio. I have six ceiling windows for a perfect constant 45-degree north light, and one side of the building has now been completely glazed with a floating deck to walk out onto and appreciate the amazing view."

Heathcote adds that he will drift with his artwork, wherever that may take him. "I will develop and change as my inspiration shifts. I want to leave behind a set of works that my children can feel proud to look at," he says. "Having said that, I think it's important to let the collectors who buy the works develop their own story line for the characters in the paintings. Meeting the artist or hearing their lift story doesn't necessarily help the story line in the paintings." ●