



Invitation

No Ark

How Do We Stay
Enchanted?

Helen Norton

Hybrid Car
Oil on Canvas 120 x 120 cm

"How do we remain enchanted? Thanks to technology, constant transformation, dissection, and transparency of everything from our DNA to our private conversations, we seem to be hurtling into a homogenised new world with no braking mechanism. The vivisector is alive and thriving. Amidst all this, how can we retain a sense of mystery about life, and how important is it that we do?

Logical knowledge and scientific pursuit are more than ever the global king, and as a result so many great things evolve to improve our lives. Nevertheless, I ask the question, what would happen to our apparently rational and scientific fiery striving if we actually got to the pot at the end of the rainbow? Where does inspiration and enchantment with life come from? How does it go missing at times? What drives the awesome urge? Does its preservation have something to do with retaining a sense of humility about being in the world; lightly and constantly plagued by the unknowable; tantalisingly haunted by 'mystery'? Despite us thinking we are too modern and clever to take note of various messages from 'the gods, God, three bears, or Red Riding Hood, the answer to such a question has been dealt with in many of our historical creative tomes; from the Bhagavad-Gita to the Bible and beyond, including many well worn fairy tales, where all 'parts' of a mans mind are given a significant place on the mad gypsy wagon of his life.

By drawing inspiration from aspects of the sometimes bizarre human tales of our ancient past, I am seeking lynch pins in the archaeological story making of the past, which are still constantly recurring themes driving the modern mind. What is it, which keeps him inspired and enchanted when his safe haven of logical progress and development runs aground and becomes his prison; when he can't tame the enormity of nature or worse still when nature stares back at him as a faceless, unpredictable, and chaotic monster – unsolvable, irreconcilable to his meddling and reasoning. Where can he hide, where can his distress rest, if not in an enchanted place, where he allows mystery to exist, and where he can stay inspired to solve his 'real world problems' creatively? However in order to reap the rewards of its creative fruit, he has to first acknowledge its importance. Man always wants to win, be he a greenie, or a capitalist, therefore he is by and in nature an underdog. The healthy reality is that his striving is always coming from his desperation to conquer what he does not know – mystery. He can do it with awe and humility or arrogance and hubris; the former full of the fruit of the undiscovered - the later as limited as his ego.

Noah's one eyed clarity on 'what to do' as disaster approached intrigues me, and offers a suitable metaphor, in comparison to and alongside modern reactions to 'pending doom'. He had warning. He had to do something, but he did not forget to take the animals - for later. Can we get the fading 'queen of mystery' back into the art of life again so that we can continue to remain hopeful and inspired in the face of such an awesome world? "

Norton, April 2012



Norton Gallery

Warmly invites you to join us at the opening of

No Ark How Do We Stay Enchanted?

by

Helen Norton

The Exhibition will be opened by
Trevor Harvey, Owner and Director of the Trevor Victor Harvey Gallery, Sydney

On Thursday 26th April 2012 from 6.30 - 8.30 pm

At 346 South Terrace, South Fremantle

Please RSVP if possible to info@nortongallery.com.au by 25th April

Refreshments will be served, with magical entertainment performed by Chelsea Gibson

Exhibition continues until 26th May

The full exhibition can be viewed online at www.nortongallery.com.au

Norton Gallery is delighted to be working with the Autism Association of Western Australia to raise funds during this exhibition. Please visit our website for further details.



Detail from 'Its Not
Just About Porridge'



'How Do We Stay Enchanted?'

Oil on Canvas 180 x 120 cm



'Its Not Just About
Porridge'
Oil on Canvas
150 x 200 cm



'Rip'
Oil on Canvas
150 x 200 cm



'Tree Of Life - Take Some By Force'
Oil on Canvas 66 x 120 cm



'No Ark'
Oil on Canvas
120 x 180 cm



'Precious'
Oil on Canvas
120 x 180 cm



'Red Fur Cat'
Oil on Canvas
91 x 120 cm



'Good News Was Rare'
Oil on Canvas 46 x 92 cm



'It Seemed Like a Land of Plenty'
Acrylic on Canvas 66 x 91 cm



'They Had Forgotten the Basics'
Oil on Canvas 50 x 50 cm



'Cross Section'
Watercolour 28 x 25 cm



'Thousands Came But They Wouldn't Fit'
Oil on Canvas 46 x 92 cm



'Special Tram'
Oil on Belgian Linen
91 x 91 cm



'Which Fish Was Special'
Oil on Belgian Linen
91 x 91 cm



'Sparrow Fart'
Oil on Canvas
120 x 120 cm



'Bunny Stalking'
Oil on Canvas 50 x 50 cm



'Bipartisan'
Oil on Canvas 50 x 50 cm



Norton Gallery

Original Art & Fine Art Publishers

Gallery Opening Hours:

Thurs- Fri 11am-5pm
Sat-Sun 9am-5pm
(or by appointment)

346 South Terrace,
South Fremantle WA 6162
(Cnr Scott St and South Terrace)
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Email : info@nortongallery.com.au

* This Catalogue contains a selection of
artwork from the exhibition.

View the complete exhibition and pricing
online at

www.nortongallery.com.au

'The Capture of Enkido'
(from the 2010 Gilgamesh Series)
Oil on Canvas 200 x 150 cm