

LOWELL RYAN PROJECTS

Marc Séguin

Icons

March 9 - April 13, 2024

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 9th, 5–7pm



Marc Séguin, *Artist + Vulture*, 2023, Charcoal and oil on canvas, 78h x 108w in, 198.12h x 274.32w cm

Lowell Ryan Projects is pleased to present *Icons*, an exhibition featuring the latest works of French-Canadian artist Marc Séguin. Exploring the uncertainty of our time through a grouping of symbolic archetypes; paintings of vultures, angels, wolves, and humans are executed in Séguin's signature style of poignant colorful gestures and symbols juxtaposed against meticulously rendered charcoal drawings on raw canvas. The works on view meditate on the duality of human nature and our capacity to resist instinct. This is Marc Séguin's first solo show in Los Angeles and with Lowell Ryan Projects.

Central to the exhibition is a large-scale painting titled *Artist + Vulture*. In the work a vulture is rendered in black charcoal, wings fully spread as if taking off in flight. The outline of a falling woman is painted on top of the vulture in thickly impastoed red oil paint as if she is dripping from the sky. The painting is ambiguous in its intent. Is the bird rescuing the woman or is the bird flying past her? How is the bird understood in the context of our times or culture? Accompanying *Artist + Vulture* are a series of smaller iconic paintings, classical depictions of angels, and renderings of vultures in various states of flight and stillness. Gestural markings in solid hues of oil paint conceal the faces of the

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angels or form symbolic depictions of shapes, stick figures, or abstract marks applied on top of the winged figures. Two howling wolves provide further symbolism in the exhibition.

Reflecting on contemporary concerns—with wars, ecological disasters, and loss of faith understood through the distortion of our digital age—iconic representations take on new meaning and purpose. The vultures, angels, wolves, and people that inhabit these recent works represent the roles of guardians, whistle-blowers, victims, and executioners for the artist, although it is left for the viewer to determine which icon fills what archetype. “I believe it’s my role, as an artist, to stand as a witness and testify to certain social disturbances.” Although, for Séguin those social disturbances are not singular events but tropes that are repeated through time, referenced in mythology, and reflected in nature. Marc Séguin’s practice reinforces his sentiments that “art should not only serve the purpose of blindfolded decorative objects, but also as awareness of who and what we are; beings of beliefs and fury, capable of grace and cruelty.”

Marc Séguin was born in Ottawa, Canada in 1970. He obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts at Concordia University and now splits his time between his home in Montréal, Canada and his Brooklyn, New York studio. Touching on themes of the politically backward, the environmentally compromised, and the socially divided, his work reveals deeper truths about the nature of humanity through images that are not only thought provoking, but beautifully elegiac.

Séguin’s works are included in the collections of The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Canada; Musée des Beaux-arts de Montréal, Canada; Musée National des Beaux-Arts du Québec, Canada; Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, Canada; The Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY; Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada; McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, Canada; and The Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg, Canada; amongst many others. He has exhibited in galleries such as Galerie Simon Blais, Montréal, Canada; Mike Weiss Gallery, New York, NY; Arsenal Art Contemporain, Montréal, Canada; Galerie Jean-Claude Bergeron, Ottawa, Canada; and Tracy Williams Gallery, New York, NY. His works have been reviewed and discussed in publications such as *Canadian Art*, *La Tribune*, *La Presse Montreal*, *Art Economist*, *Toronto Star*, *Whitehot Magazine*, *ARTINFO*, *Whitewall*, *The Gazette, Montreal*, and *The Globe and Mail*. Additionally, Marc Séguin has published six critically acclaimed fiction novels including *La foi du braconnier*, *Hollywood*, *Nord Alice*, and *Les Repentirs et Jenny Sauro*. *Stealing Alice* is his first feature film, and his documentary, *The State of the Farm*, was released in 2017.

For more information please contact: info@lowellryanprojects.com