

SIMON GAON

New Paintings

January 29 to March 14, 2009

NABI GALLERY

137 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10001

WWW.NABIGALLERY.COM

SIMON GAON'S PAINTINGS ARE THE EXHILARATING, passionate, romantic, poetic, and deeply sincere expressions of a natural artist. No theories, schools, -isms, or -ologies allowed. For Gaon a painting is the result of a process of discovery, not a story or a statement. It grows intuitively from vision, memory, feeling, and the physical properties of brush and paint. There is no plan, only a fiery impulse and a knowledge of the medium earned over many years of daily practice.

The results are heavy, sticky, fragrant. They take ages to dry. Gaon lavishes color upon canvas with the *élan* of a chef. His gobs of paint are thick, succulent, juicy. His work demonstrates a massive visual appetite. Its subjects (its ostensible subjects) are his excuse to act out the excitement of exploring the medium. He paints roiling tempests and fires at sea, Ferris wheels, city lights, luxuriant gardens—whatever gets him in the cathartic frame of mind.

The landscapes in the current show, from the *Sunset on a Lake* series, are such an exploration. These variations on a theme derive from childhood memories of boating at summer camp, but what they really are is an adventure in the possibilities of pigment and accident. He wants to prove he can paint as an expressionist every bit as well as the Abstract Expressionists without being abstract.

Then there are Gaon's portraits, in which his process of discovery embraces a deep sympathy for the outsiders—the homeless men, prostitutes, mountebanks, and café philosophers—who are his subjects. These paintings, like the seascapes, are popular in northern Europe. Americans often find them too dark, too deep, too serious—which is a shame, because they are really objects of wonder. Melancholy or tragic though his subjects may be, Gaon's work is at heart exuberant. He takes glee in pushing the boundaries of what he can do in his investigations of color and texture.

“Why,” he asks, “should the abstract painters have all the fun?”

Val Schaffner
Nabi Gallery



Lake at Sunset II, 2008, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



Self Portrait, 2008, oil on canvas, 36 x 24 inches



No Parking, 2008, oil on canvas, 36 x 24 inches



Yankee Fan, 2007, oil on canvas, 36 x 24 inches



Homeless Man, 2008, oil on canvas, 36 x 24 inches



Lake at Sunset III, 2007, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



Lake at Sunset IV, 2007, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



Young Man on Wadsworth Ave., 2007, oil on canvas, 36 x 24 inches



Lake at Sunset V, 2007, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



Bellhop, 2008, oil on canvas, 36 x 24 inches



Lake at Sunset VI, 2007, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



Tsunami, 2007, oil on canvas, 72 x 72 inches



Lake at Sunset VII, 2007, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



Lake at Sunset VIII, 2007, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



Lake at Sunset IX, 2007, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



Homeless Man, 2008, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



Lake at Sunset X, 2007, oil on canvas, 50 x 54 inches



SIMON GAON

Born 1943 in New York City, NY
Lives and works in New York and Shelter Island

1959–60

Studied with Arthur Bressler, Roosevelt School, Stamford, CT

1961

High School of Art and Design, awarded the Art Studio Club Award Scholarship

1962–63

Art Students League, New York, NY (Merit Scholarship)

1963–76

Resided mostly in Paris, France

1964

Academia 63, Haarlem, Holland

1965

Art Students League, New York, NY (Merit Scholarship)

1966

Awarded the Edward G. McDowell Traveling Scholarship resulting in a one-person show in 1968

1975

Co-founded with Leo Reeves the Subjectivist Gallery

1977

Co-founded “New York Street Painters”

Museums and Collections

Museum of the City of New York, NY
New-York Historical Society, NY
Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, NY
West Valley Art Museum, Surprise, AZ
Yeshiva University Museum, New York, NY
France Lousirs, Paris, France
The Art Students League, New York
White and Case, New York, NY
Millennium Hotel, New York, NY
Carrot Capital LLC, New York, NY

Solo Exhibitions

2008

Galerie Rose, Hamburg, Germany
Street Life—New York Stories, Galerie Open, Berlin, Germany

2007

Ein Amerikaner in Berlin, Berlin Capital Club, Berlin, Germany

2006

Jan Famira Galerie, Sylt, Germany
Nabi Gallery, New York, NY

2005

Danckert, Box, Meier, Berlin, Germany
Peter Findlay Gallery, New York
Een Amerikaan in Haarlem, Ton Warndorff Gallery, Haarlem, The Netherlands
Seascapes (with Susan Sugar), Nabi Gallery, New York, NY
City of Dreams (with Dae-Woong Nam), Nabi Gallery, New York, NY
Jan Famira Galerie, Sylt, Germany
New Yorker Bilder, Galerie Rose, Hamburg, Germany

2004

Jan Famira Galerie, Sylt, Germany

2003

West Valley Museum, Surprise, AZ

2002

Ludvika Konsthall, Ludvika, Sweden

2001

Yeshiva University Museum, New York, NY

1999

Peter Findlay Gallery, New York, NY
Galleri Rubens, Smedjebacken, Sweden
Realismus Galerie, Kassel, Germany

1997

Galerie Peter Fischinger, Stuttgart, Germany

1995

Galerie Peter Fischinger, Stuttgart, Germany
New York Paintings, Susan Conway Gallery, Washington, DC

1992

Frank Bustamante Gallery, New York, NY

1991

Galerie Le Chainon Manquant, Paris, France
France Loisirs Corporate Offices, Paris, France

1990

Galerie Peter Fischinger, Stuttgart, Germany

1989

The Exhibition Space, New York (sponsored by Ingber Gallery)

1988

Ingber Gallery, New York, NY

1986

Nicolas Roerich Museum, New York, NY

1974

Galerie des Ambassadeurs, Paris, France

1969

Two-man show (with Arthur Bressler), Loeb Center, New York, NY

1968

Art Students League, New York, NY

1965

Stern Brothers Gallery—American Artists, New York, NY

Group Exhibitions

2008

Peter Findlay Gallery, New York, NY, also 2007, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995

Butler Fine Art, East Hampton, NY, also 2007, 2006

2007

Miniatures, Nabi Gallery, New York, NY
Acme Fine Art, Boston, MA
Valley House Gallery, Dallas, TX
South Street Gallery, Greenport, NY
eDavid Gallery, Bethlehem, PA

2006

Nabi Gallery, New York, NY, also 2001
Galerie Open, Berlin, Germany
Gallery North, Setauket, NY
AFP Gallery, New York, NY

2005

Spanierman Gallery, East Hampton, NY
Häfen, Meer und Ringelnatz, Galerie Rose, Hamburg, Germany

2004

The Gallery at Bristol Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ
Gallery Schlesinger, New York, NY
Elizabeth Harris Gallery, New York, NY, also 1994

Handsel Gallery, Santa Fe, NY and Hudson, NY

2003

New-York Historical Society, New York, NY

2002

Lizan-Toops, East Hampton, NY
The Gallery at Bristol Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ

2001

Art Students League, New York, NY

1999

Nabi Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY, also 1997

1998

National Academy of Design, New York, NY

1997

Mangel Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, also 1996

1995

ACA Galleries, New York, NY

1992

Graham Modern, New York, NY

1991

Cork Gallery, Lincoln Center, New York, NY, also 1990, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981 1979, 1978*

1990

Berlin—New York—Stuttgart, Frank Bustamante Gallery, New York, NY

1989

Helander Gallery, New York, NY

1988

Galerie Rose, Hamburg, Germany

1988

Ingber Gallery, New York, NY

1987

Lever House Gallery, New York, NY, also 1986, 1985, 1984, 1983, 1982, 1980*

1985

New York Institute of Technology, New York, NY*

1983

Art Students League, New York, NY, also 1980, 1979*

1982

Arbitrage Gallery, New York, NY*

1982

The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY

1981

Pace University, Westchester, NY*

1981

Adelphi University, Garden City, NY*

1980

Manhattan Laboratory Museum, New York, NY*

1980

Educational Alliance Art Gallery, New York, NY*

1980

Arts Council of Orange County, Middletown, NY*

1980

Hudson Guild Art Gallery, New York, NY*

1978

Brotherhood Synagogue, New York, NY

1975

Subjectivist Gallery, New York, NY

1975

* “New York Street Painters” exhibition