

The nature of our existence has been a constant fascination for the human race. It has been something of great mystery and imagination as well as a struggle between science and religion. The stories as told in the bible paint a picture of both beauty and splendor, and descent and disgrace. For American artist Peter G. Pereira, these complexities of life form a foundation for his work to grow from. In the formation of trees, painted almost topographically, Pereira builds his figures up to become strong and powerful sculptures on canvas, bringing them to life through concepts of love, kinship, and contemplation, all the very essence of humanity.

In the painting *Two Lovers-the Sun and the Moon*, Pereira interposes two strong astronomical qualities with the figures of man and woman. They appear to grow within one another as the sun and the moon are reflected evenly across the canvas forming a yin and yang. The man shining strong and bright over the seated woman who appears much more grounded and relaxed.

Additional elements of space and time are inserted into *Seated Figure Around a Black and White Hole* where the figure is contemplating the idea of what a black hole could provide. Time travel? Interspace transportation? The ripples around the hole reflect the water-like quality cast by the foot of the figure. This painting shows a true nature of discovery and understanding of the human's need to explore.

The celestial quality of these paintings is something that is repeated throughout most of Pereira's works. We as the viewer aren't given a clear impression of the figures relationship to the space around them. It's as if the group of figures have converged upon some unknown universal landscape. We see this most prominently in *Before the Fall* where the woman in the painting is almost camouflaged into the scenery of twisted trees around her. She sits revealed under a mass of branches filled with sacred apples of bright cyan, red, yellow and green. The skies are gassy in their appearance and there is no sense of time. The title of the painting does suggest a story, while under the imagination of the artist we're viewing something we ourselves could have never imagined.

Continuing with the Eden theme, *Cheerleaders in the Garden of Eden* showcases a mass of figuration and movement. The twisted tree-like cheerleaders appear more as archaic woodcarvings than as understood humans. Their limbs wrapping and curling around one another and the tips in four separate colors, creating some sort of identifying separation between the group of cheering girls. We have to wonder what they would be cheering for in the garden of Eden, and who's team are they cheering for.

The work of Peter G. Pereira is constructed in the foundation of human imagination and through this grouping of paintings we're able to get a glimpse into the fabricated environment that he has created for his twisted figures and the life and spirit that is living within each of them. Pereira, an emerging artist from Queens, New York, worked his way around Europe and Canada before returning to the States with his original style in full bloom. His work has participated in several shows including group exhibitions at the Y West Side, in New York and the Pod Gallery with solo exhibitions at the Knickerbocker Gallery and K.Hall Arts

Management in New York. His work would make a fine addition to the home of admiring collectors and art enthusiasts alike.