

Tableau / Painting: Le triporteur / The triporteur, 30" x 60"
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

Dominic
Besner

MORA An Urban
Fairy Tale



Tableau / Painting: Les comtes de le singulier / The counts of singleness, 60" x 96"
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



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 photography by Noan Major

On November 3, 2011, Dominic Besner threw a party showcasing 36 of his newest paintings. This interactive vermissage was an urban fairy tale come to life. With characters materializing from the world of MORA, (Besner's novella of the same name) the audience was given a doorway into the imagination of this prolific and gifted artist. It was a unique and magical event embodying the over-the-top exuberance of Dominic Besner, who has exhibited from Morocco to Mexico, from Charlevoix to China, and whose works are prized by collectors like Lise Watier and Guy Laliberté.

A picture is said to be worth a thousand words but the images created in the mind of Dominic Besner and brought to life on his huge canvas paintings are an entire world of words. His colourful productions resemble modern, urban and timeless tragedies and adventures. There is a mix of both classical and contemporary and he uses different techniques to portray the mood of the piece and increase the story. Each and every one of Dominic's pieces tells a story of a universal journey.

Besner's curiosity and profound sensitivity to the world around us and the world in his mind transport the viewer to where forms (male, female and even animal) run with you in a fascinating place filled with explosions of bright colour. Emotions are abundant when you linger in front of his paintings. The normal world ceases to exist and you merge into a dreamscape where souls are intertwined and overlapped with animals racing towards the supernatural.

At the MORA exhibition, the world of Dominic Besner was brought to life; everyone at the event became part of his paintings and the rhythm of his world. For a brief time, your life and the mind of Dominic Besner became one and you lived in his urban fairy tale.

Throughout the entire course of his work, Besner's main artistic concern has been focused on transmitting the vital and physical sources of energy that surround him. The artist is entirely open to the vibrations of contemporary society which he seeks to remodel in new forms of plasticity, hovering somewhere between the figurative and the abstract. His aim is not to create an ideal or to reproduce nature, but rather to give form to the energy emanating from the

Tableau de gauche / Left painting: Les dieux ne descendent plus sur l'horizon / The gods no longer descend to the horizon, 72" x 36", Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

Tableau de droite / Right painting: Le nadir de minuit la mère / Low point on the horizon of mother midnight, 72" x 36" Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



Tableau / painting: Les rois bourg en trompe l'oeil / Kings of city state, trompe-l'oeil, 60" x 84", Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

metaphysics of human activity. The subject of the picture is the record or the memory of a living civilization expressed in a sustainable medium, the work of art.

Born in 1965 in North Lancaster, Ontario, Besner completed a degree in architecture at the University of Montreal in 1992. This training as an architect allowed him to begin thinking about the city and its components: the eminently human tradition articulated in an urban plan and the elements necessary for survival in an environment of cultural life. His attendance at the university taught him a critical lesson, enabling him to define his vision of a living environment that focuses on human concern with the past, present and future. Above all, this training led him to discover his true passion, painting.

For several years, Besner has been dedicated exclusively to painting, searching for an aesthetic to represent his vision of the world.

His works are colourful and moving, inspired by his studies in architecture, the works of the old masters and thoughts of his encounters along the streets of Montreal. His paintings reflect a very particular look – emphasizing and exaggerating the fun in the world around us. Deeply affected by the devastation of body and mind, by which the body binds an energy in relation to reflection, Besner creates characters that keep traces of the past, sometimes seeming to be shadows of themselves, and who face their destiny to the end. Fabulous animals, inspired by some of the characters of Otto Dix and cartoonist Nicolas de Crécy, among others, advance gradually toward the future, like the human being. Always torn in different directions, but fueled by hope.

In 1995, Dominic Besner joined forces with Michael Mensi, of Mensi & Rioux and together with Steve Hamill and Benoit Beauchamp have



Tableau / painting: Les rois bourg en trompe l'oeil / Kings of city state, trompe-l'oeil, 60" x 84", Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

Tableau / painting: Aux confins d'un grand disparu / At the border of the great disappearance, 72" x 30", Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



Tableau / painting: À demi-jour tout horizon / Midday on the horizon, 84" x 48", Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

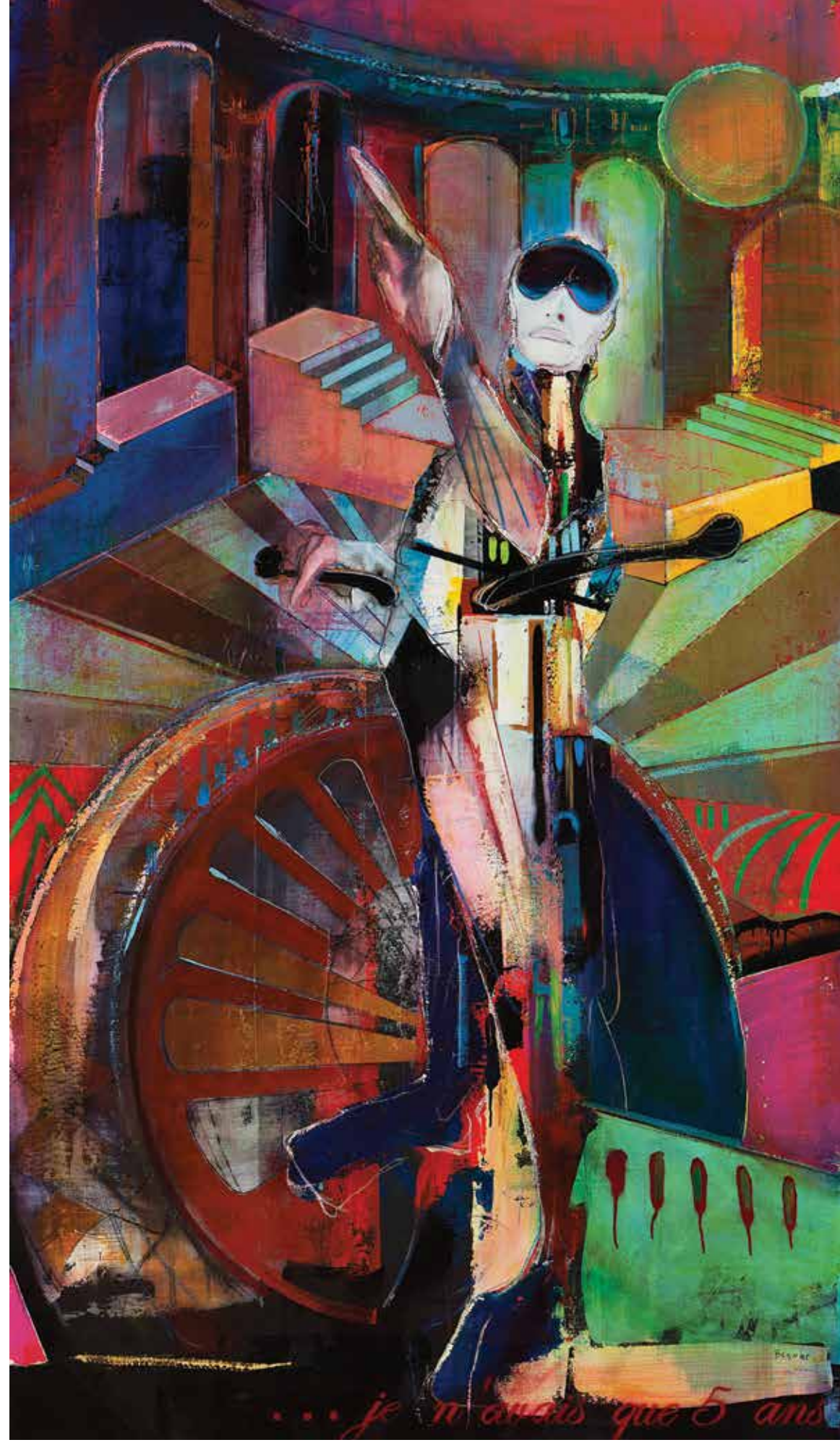


Tableau / painting: Aux portes des derniers-nés, elles pousseront libres / At the gates of the last born, they shall grow up free, 72" x 30", Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont





Photos de l'évènements / Event pictures
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Noan Major



managed to create artistic events of gigantic proportions. These events change the way collectors can participate in the artistic process and journey.

In his writings, Dominic Besner does not pretend to play the role of an author but rather of a guide. From the point of his pen, he encourages readers to discover the imaginary world that inspires his work and each of his stories. Dominic states, "My creations invite people to explore my madness, to discover their own stories and to tell them in their own way." He is simply there to help you start your journey.

The artistic process of Besner is entirely focused on the transmission of energy. The artist opens the vibrations of today's society to reshape it in moving forms, somewhere between figuration

and abstraction. He does not seek to create an ideal or to reproduce nature, but to shape a metaphysical energy in its relation to human activity. Questions and thoughts nourish the art of Besner and focus on the relationship between life and death. He gives birth to a fantasy world of each and although they are together in a journey each one tells a different and profoundly unique story about the fragility of man and the transience of life. He has always been looking for traces of life, fascinated by what remains after death.

Besner's creative work is based on a mixed technique on canvas. He has a preference for oil sticks and their rich palette of colours, as well as acrylic paint, structural mortar, china marker and aerosol paint. In addition to these materials, he uses a technique where the colour is applied with



Tableau / painting: Le subliminal / Subliminal, 48" x 48",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



Tableau / painting: Le grand autel / The great altar,
48" x 48", Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

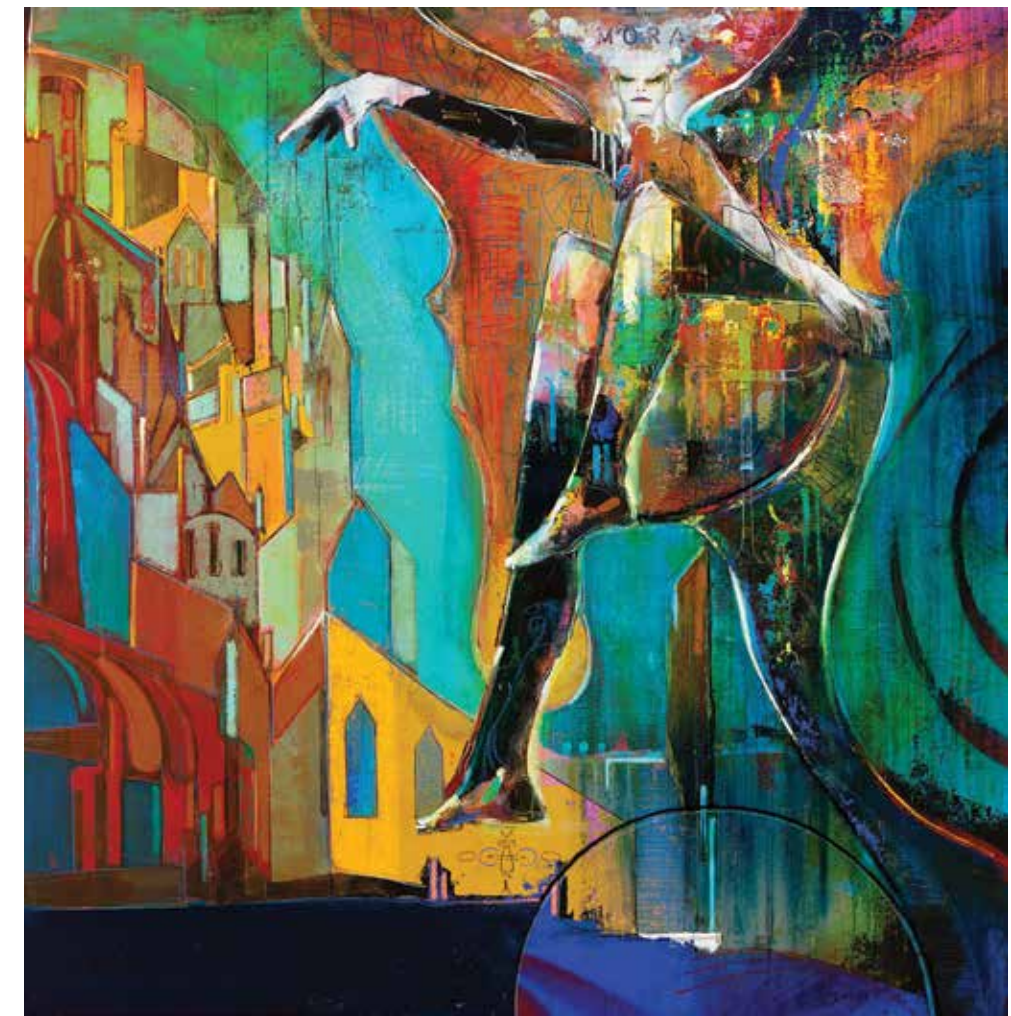


Tableau / painting: À l'ombre d'une forteresse, elle est Mora / In the shadows of the fortress,
Mora awaits, 72" x 72", Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

his fingers and scraped throughout the canvas.

To instill greater emotional depth in his works, Besner lets his lines and colours overlap in a dynamic that is both simple and complex. The division of the canvas into different planes provides a structure for his composition, allowing the introduction of varying mixtures of colours and textures. The work is a system of well-orchestrated relationships, as the motifs spill over from one plane to the next. By immersing the figures in these interactions, the artist succeeds in creating an image of the way contemporary society moves. Besner draws on the energy from the heart of the city, with its noise and fast-paced activity, which he then modulates in his painting.

The characters depicted are necessarily imbued with the same sense of dizzying movement associated with urban life. Whether his subject is human, animal or architectural, the resulting depiction is always the effect of fluidity that emerges from the dynamic relation between the figure and the space. The artist

approaches his work as a pictorial architect: his figures are monumental, three dimensional and reflective of the lines that exist between proportion and balance.

The figure is a concrete form, a means to enter into dialogue with the viewer about the emotional range of the world created by Besner. When the character is the subject, everything is in his eyes, his mouth, the projection of his cheeks, his broad forehead, and sometimes only in terms of presentation of his head. Facial expression is more comprehensive than the reflection of a personality; it is a reflection of today's world and can belong to all of us. The image resulting from Besner's work becomes that of a world in itself, far beyond the two-dimensionality of the canvas.

When you join the world of Dominic Besner, for a short while you live with the figures on his canvas and in his mind. It is an experience not for the faint of heart but one that should not be missed. For more information go to www.dominicbesner.com.



Tableau / painting:

Les blanches ombrées / The white women in shadows, 48" x 72",

Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



Tableau / painting: Sa dernière épître / The final epistle, 48" x 84",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



Tableau / painting: La jasmine de Lygor / The Lygor's jasmine, 96" x 150",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

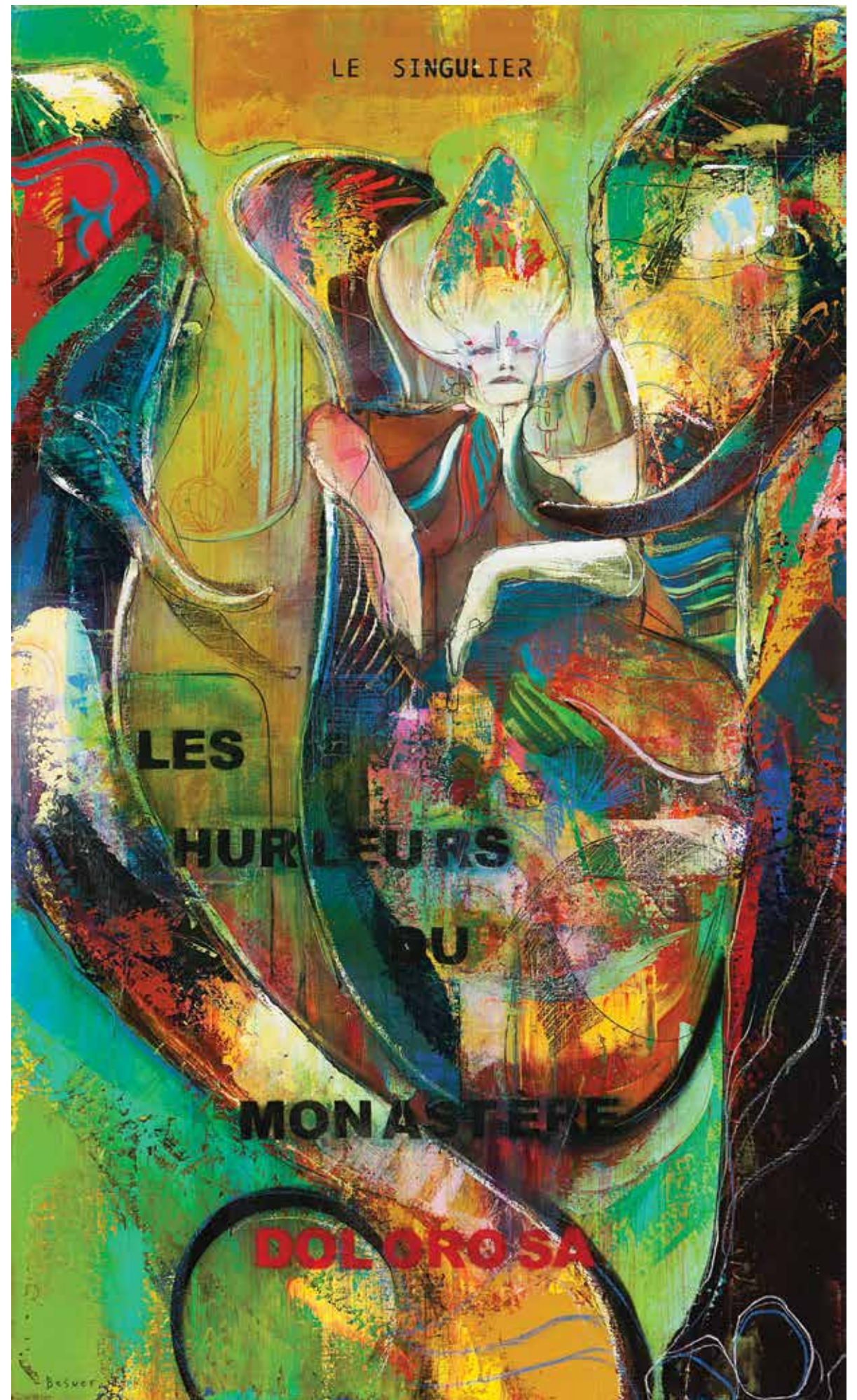


Tableau / painting:
Les hurleurs du monastère Dolorosa / The ones who howl from the Dolorosa monastery, 60" x 36",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



Tableau / painting: Le majoral d'abysses / Majoral of the abyss, 60" x 30",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

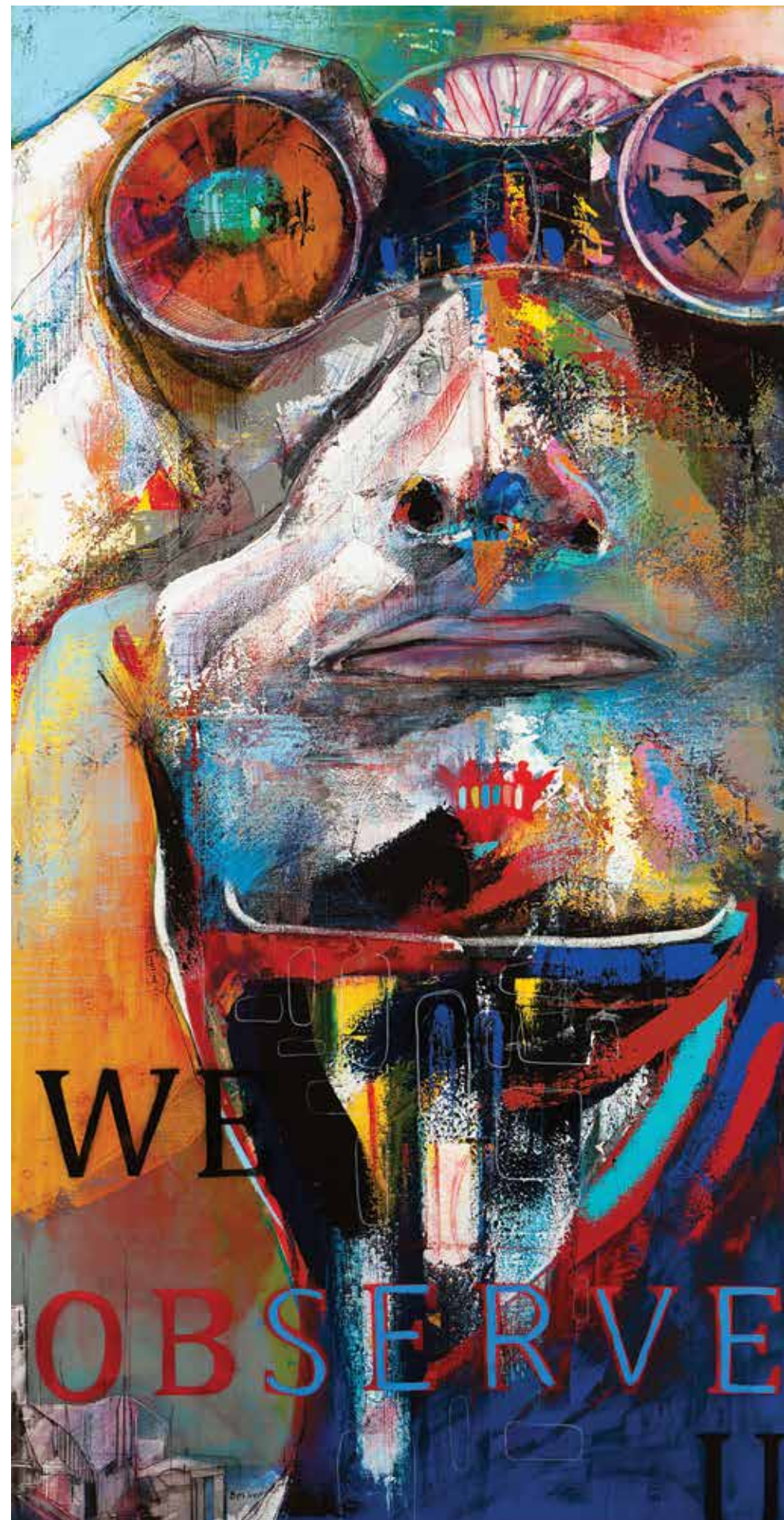


Tableau / painting: L'œil qui voit se tait / The eye that beholds is silent, 96" x 48",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



Tableau / painting: Le conseil du memor / Advice from memor, 68" x 68",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



Tableau / painting: Contrées fertiles des vierges de Sartres /
The fertile lands of the virgins of Sartres, 60" x 72",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



Tableau / painting: Les étrangères sont à quai / The foreign women are on the station platform, 36" x 72",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont

MORA An Urban Tale

In the distance midnight sounded with the twenty-four peals of the bell, announcing the imminent death of humanity as asteroid 948-2 had just come into impact with the earth. The year 15 had barely begun, while men cried out in anguish and both man and beast perished.

"If man has descended from the money, what will descend from men?"

In the midst of the chaos, hope however was emerging. Suddenly Mother Midnight appeared. She shaped and fashioned nature and gave new purpose to humanity. Mother Midnight brandished the invisible.

Animals now yearned to wield the same power as men. Men coveted the same power as the gods; immortality.

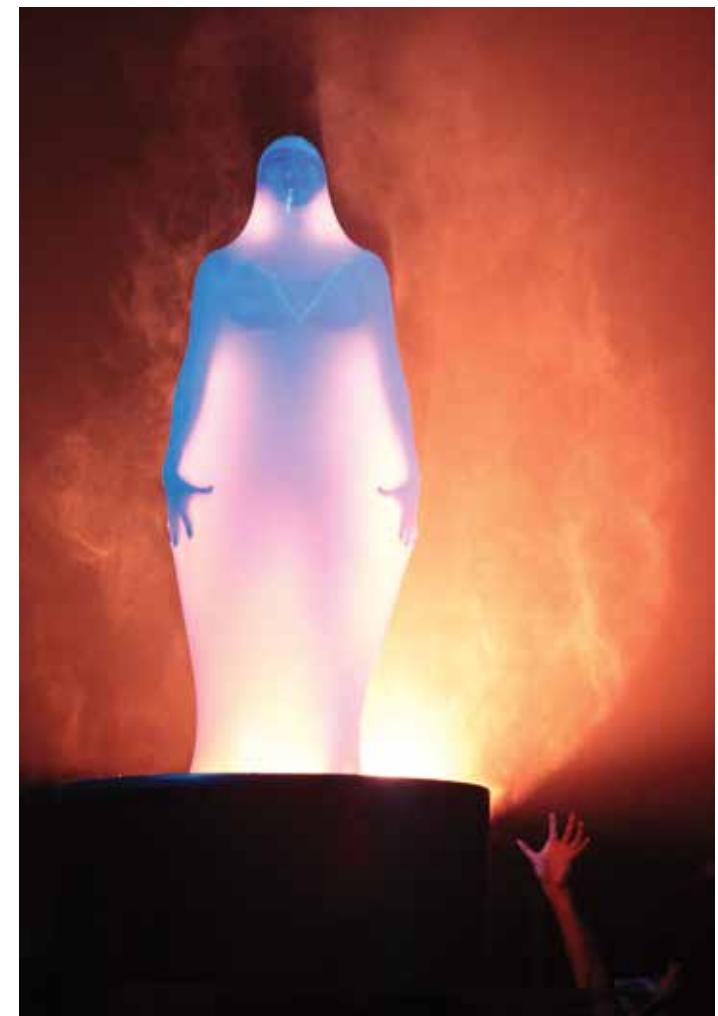
Thus begins the legend – start your journey



Tableau / painting: Les escadrons du treizième- élément / The thirteenth element squadrons, 48" x 48",
Crédit photo / Photo credit: Robert Guevremont



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Crédit photo / Photo credit: Noan Major





Besner
Crédit photo / Photo credit : Noan Major



Tableau / painting: Dans les geôles d'Euclide, Zirga sous radar / In the jails of Euclid, Zirga beneath the radar, 84" x 132"
Crédit photo / Photo credit : Luc Lavergne