

TASTE OF LIFE

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馨香橄欖油產地之旅





On a Large Canvas

Hunt Slonem's artistic obsessions are a feast for the eyes

無止境的畫布

——訪美國著名當代藝術家Hunt Slonem
從細膩的筆觸，到豔麗的用色，Hunt Slonem總是有著神奇的力量，能將生活中再平凡不過的事物描繪成美麗的藝術品。

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一場暴風雪襲擊了紐約市，各大媒體紛紛發佈警報，建議市民們盡量留在家中。眼看這座號稱「不夜城」的國際大都市就要偃旗息鼓了，一位精神抖擻的大叔卻身著一件沾滿染料的舊襯衫和毛邊長褲，依然忙碌著自己的事情，好像那漫天的飛雪跟他毫不相干一般。

他是Hunt Slonem，美國當代最著名的藝術家之一。此時，他正在做著自己最擅長的事情——畫畫，畫的正是他的代表作——蝴蝶，微妙的色調和光影正一步步呈現在這尚未完成的作品上。「我是一個畫家。」Hunt說：「我每天都畫畫，這就是我最基本的工作。」

事實證明，Hunt很擅長自己的工作。自從他上世紀七十年代開始畫畫，事情就變得一發而不可收。他的作品曾在世界各地的博物館內展出，並被收藏，其中包括美國國家藝術博物館、史密森學會、紐約大都會藝術博物館和紐約藝術學院。他在全世界數十個國家舉辦過超過二百場的個人畫展，也贏得了廣泛的認可和讚譽，包括三次獲得麥克道爾獎學金和國家藝術基金會的嘉獎。

重複不懈

Hunt的畫作通常歸為「新印象派」。畫中

There's a blizzard blowing through New York City: there's snow in the air and ice on the streets. And the city that never sleeps is — well, perhaps not shutting down, but certainly catching its breath.

Hunt Slonem, however, is someone who doesn't believe in snow days. He's wearing an old shirt and a pair of cut-off pants, both with paint stains. And he's busy doing what he does best — poring over a canvas full of finely drawn butterflies, fine-tuning the detailed crosshatched lines of his next painting.

"I'm a painter," Slonem says. "I paint every day. That's the meat and potatoes of who I am and what I do."

As it turns out, he's pretty good at it. Since he started painting in the early 1970s, Slonem has enjoyed extraordinary success. His work has been showcased in museums around the world, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the New York Academy of Art. He's had over 200 solo exhibitions in



的主體多為日常生活中常見的事物，辨識度很高。但Hunt用高度個性化的手法和情感的注入，讓這些平凡的事物煥發出不平凡的魅力。

Hunt的創作過程也有些與眾不同，他並不會去接近和思考物體，而是要徹底吃透自己即將描繪的事物。然後，他才會拿起畫筆開始用線面光影去將物體呈現出來。即便覺得對所畫的物體完全領會了，他還是經常畫一件物體就畫幾十張，每張上面都畫幾十個。

「人們口中的『重複』一詞，經常是貶義詞。」Hunt說：「但自然中的一切都是這樣不斷重複的，當然，也都不是完全相同的。所以『重複』對我而言有著神聖的含義。你知道，就像是你越說，這個事情越像真的。如果我不把一樣東西畫上二十遍，我就不覺得我認識這樣東西。」

dozens of countries around the world. He's also received a number of prestigious awards and accolades, including three MacDowell Fellowships and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Slonem's biography lists him as a "neo-expressionist." The vast majority of his art features everyday, recognizable forms and objects, but they're expressed in a highly personal, almost emotional style.

But it's perhaps easier to understand him as an artist of passion. Unlike many artists, Slonem doesn't "approach" or "consider" a subject. Rather, he tackles it and wrestles it to the ground, subduing it with brushstroke

左頁：美國著名當代藝術家Hunt Slonem
上圖：Hunt正在進行名為「守護者與蝴蝶」的作品創作。

Opposite page: Artist Hunt Slonem in his studio
Above: Slonem painting "Guardians & Butterflies"



Hunt擁有的被列入美國國家史跡名錄的居所Cordts Mansion中一間水藍色牆壁房間。
The Teal room in Slonem's own Cordts Mansion, a residence listed on the National Historic Register.

「我喜歡明亮、豐富、有趣、有活力的色彩。它們總是能帶給我純粹的快樂。這個世界已經有太多的灰色，這跟我絕對沒有共鳴。」

——Hunt Slonem

鍾情色彩

在四十年的藝術生涯中，Hunt「結識」了很多事物：蝴蝶、鳥、兔子、豹貓、熱帶植物和水果，還有亞伯拉罕·林肯，以及許多富有異國情調的物品。但無論何種事物或人物，Hunt在用畫筆表現他們時，令人印象最深刻的都是色彩。

如果僅僅用五彩繽紛來形容Hunt的畫作，那似乎辜負了他的一片苦心。他的用色更像是使用了一種盡可能趨於飽和的方式，讓色彩如成熟了一般的飽滿深厚。每張畫布最終都像是採擷了彩虹的某一部份，留下了醒目的亮色，充滿了陽光下的熱帶風情。

「我喜歡將色彩推到極致。」Hunt解釋說：「我喜歡明亮、豐富、有趣、有活力的色彩。它們總是能帶給我純粹的快樂。這個世界已經有太多的灰色，這跟我絕對沒有共鳴。」按照Hunt的說法，他對色彩的這份熱愛源於他孩提時代的經歷。「那時我們住在夏威夷，我對那裏的樣貌、敬仰的神明和生長的動物都非常熟悉。我喜歡那裏，那是個天堂一樣的地方。」

「我有個年紀很大的老師，我記得他在夏威夷曾舉著兩種顏色對我說，你永遠不可以把這些顏色用在一起，這樣會看上去很不舒服。所以……我一直都在這樣用。」Hunt開心地笑了起來。「我就是喜歡打破規則，然後看看會發生甚麼？」

打破常規

Hunt打破的另一個規則是藝術與其它事物之間的界限。做為一位高產的畫家，Hunt還忙裏偷閒地搞著雕塑、裝飾品和涉獵幾乎所有的設計領域。他打造了紐約奢華百貨店Bergdorf Goodman的展示櫥窗；德國奧迪汽車還邀請他設計一款客戶訂製的A5轎車。去年，他又與時尚配飾公司Echo Design Group合作，設計了限

and crosshatch, until he comes to completely master it. He frequently devotes dozens of canvases to a single subject, and each of those canvases encompasses dozens of iterations of the subject.

“People are saying ‘repetition,’ like [it’s] almost a derogatory word,” Slonem says. “[But] everything in nature is repeated endlessly, and yet it’s all different. So repetition [takes] on almost a divine meaning for me. You know, like the more you repeat it, the more it becomes true. If I haven’t painted something 20 times, I don’t feel like I know the subject.”

The list of Slonem’s obsessions is long: butterflies, birds, rabbits, ocelots, tropical plants, tropical fruits, tropical trees, Abraham Lincoln, exotica of all kinds. But beyond the content of his art lies another obsession: colour.

To call Slonem’s work colourful would be to do it a grave disservice. More like saturated, drenched, soaked in pigment, many of his canvases are lavish and an intense homage to the entire rainbow, marked with bright hues, primarily from a tropical palate.

“I like to push colour to its limits,” Slonem says. “I’m happy when it’s bright and colourful and pizzazz-y and interesting. Colour is sheer joy to me. So much of the world is grey — and it just doesn’t resonate for me.”

As Slonem explains, the source of this particular obsession can be traced back to his childhood. “We lived in Hawaii, and I was familiar with all those forms and shapes and gods and animal life. You know, I loved that — [it was] paradise-like.”



上圖：Cordts Mansion的會客廳，這裏是Hunt位於紐約Kingston的住宅。

Above: The back parlor in Cordts Mansion, Slonem's residence in Kingston, NY

量版的絲巾和手袋；還出版了一本新書《當藝術遭遇設計》(When Art Meets Design)。此外，他還將他在路易斯安那州的兩個種植園改建成了宏偉的大型畫廊，用來展示他不拘一格的畫作、家具和其它藝術品。

儘管看上去忙碌不堪，但Hunt似乎樂在其中。和他細聊片刻你就會發現，他的生活方式正如他的畫作，天馬行空地鋪展在一張巨大的畫布上。「我希望我能去做越來越大型的作品，我覺得我做大型的項目做的最好。」

「更大、更多、更好。我對我所從事的事業感到很幸福，這並不是那種去實現很多夢想的感覺。」Hunt繼續說：「我只是有個目標，能做一些更面向公眾，人們可以永久觀賞的作品。而我還有更大的目標，不是目標，而是必須去做的事情。那就是擁有一所巨大的房子，足以填滿我的餘生。」

不過，在目標實現之前，Hunt還是會每天堅持作畫。「我正在試圖找到我的極限。」Hunt笑著說。



左上：兔子圖案壁紙。右上：Hunt使用了Lee Jofa的壁紙和布藝來裝飾自己Cordts Mansion的臥室。

Above, left: Bunny Wallpaper Above, right: Slonem pulled from Lee Jofa's Groundworks paint and textiles collection for Cordts Mansion's Lavender bedroom.

“I had teachers in the ancient days — I remember one in Hawaii who would hold up two colours and say: ‘You can never use these colours together—they make you sick!’ So I used them constantly,” he says, laughing heartily. “I just like breaking rules and seeing how far you can go.”

One of those rules is the boundary between “art” and other things. In addition to being a prolific painter, Slonem is busy with sculpture, décor, and design in all forms. Slonem’s artistic window displays have graced luxury department store Bergdorf Goodman in New York City. German car maker Audi commissioned him to create a custom-designed A5 coupe — he based the design on one of his oil paintings. Last year, he collaborated with fashion accessories company Echo Design Group for a limited edition scarf and handbag collection. Late last year, he published a new book, *When Art Meets Design*. In between these projects, he’s somehow found the time to turn his two plantations in Louisiana

into massive, grandiose galleries of paintings, furniture, and other *objets d’art*, decorated in his eclectic, personal style.

It all adds up to an exceptionally busy life — one that Slonem revels in. Listen to Slonem for a while, and you get the sense that the artist lives his life in the same way he paints: on a large canvas. “I hope that I will be able to do larger and larger work. I feel that I’m at my best on an enormous scale.”

“Bigger, more, better. I’m so happy with what I’m doing — it’s not like I have all these unfulfilled dreams,” Slonem says, “but my goal is to do more public things that people can see permanently.”

“And my larger goal — not a goal, but a necessity — is to have an enormous building or house that I can fill up for the rest of my life.”

Until that happens, Slonem will continue painting, whatever the weather happens to be doing outside. “I’m trying to find my boundaries,” he laughs surrounded by some of his most colourful masterpieces.