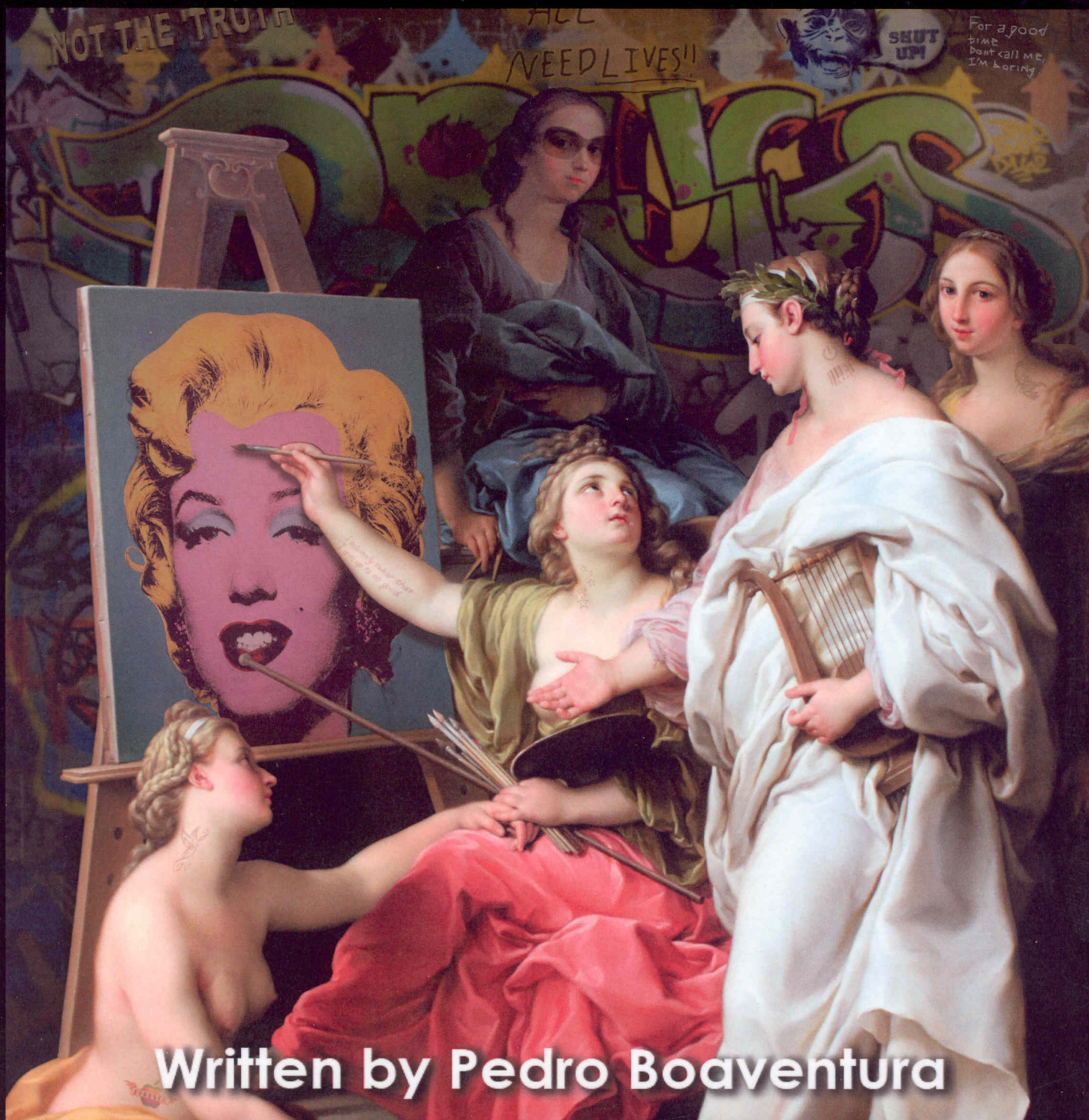


Masters

OF CONTEMPORARY FINE ART - Volume 3



Written by Pedro Boaventura



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Founder and Curator

Pedro Boaventura

Design

Art Galaxie Design

Sylvia Boaventura

Front Cover

"Gentleman Prefer Blondes", 2016,
mixed media on canvas
by Marco Battaglini

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SERGIY HRAPOV

DRAWING - UKRAINE

hrapov.com

The trait of Sergiy Hrapov is unmistakable, it contains a fierce, expressive power, reminiscent of ancient engravings. A surreal world filled with medieval scenes, where the motifs are stylized and deformed – both in shape and in scale. These disproportions and exaggerations accentuate the whimsical effect and attain a typical comic side that is almost caricature-like. Hrapov portrays picturesque royalty and their enchanted castles, travelers in fantastic journeys and knights in imaginary battles. The artist reproduces a wide range of winged characters that fly over his dream world. One witnesses the chimeric parade of all kinds of self-driving artifacts. A species resulting from the fusion of boats with wooden cars, sometimes with aerodynamic propulsion. Together, they give a great dynamism to their compositions.

Hrapov's organic stroke's texture adds a tactile relief. He uses cyclical compositions, in which his models are subject to transformation, a change of state, or a trip. Through the use of opposite directions, he also underlines the contrast between attitudes, choices, and opinions. His characters are surrounded by characterizing iconography, between costumes and ornaments, several objects and all kinds of instruments and weaponry.

The metamorphoses with animals provide a fabulous character to his stories; a powerful symbology that is capable of telling a story with only pictures. The fish is a recurrent symbol in his work. If, on the one hand, it represents life, on the other, it's an attribute of strength, courage, and perseverance. Before being a secret signal of early Christians, it was used as a talisman of fertility and, even today is considered a protective amulet. The bird simultaneously symbolizes lightness and freedom, as it does intelligence and wisdom, and still represents the soul and all that is divine. The flight and the wings make them perfect messengers between heaven and Earth.

Right: Millennium, 1999, 9.9 x 14.9cm

Be Fond, 1999, 10.5 x 13.1cm



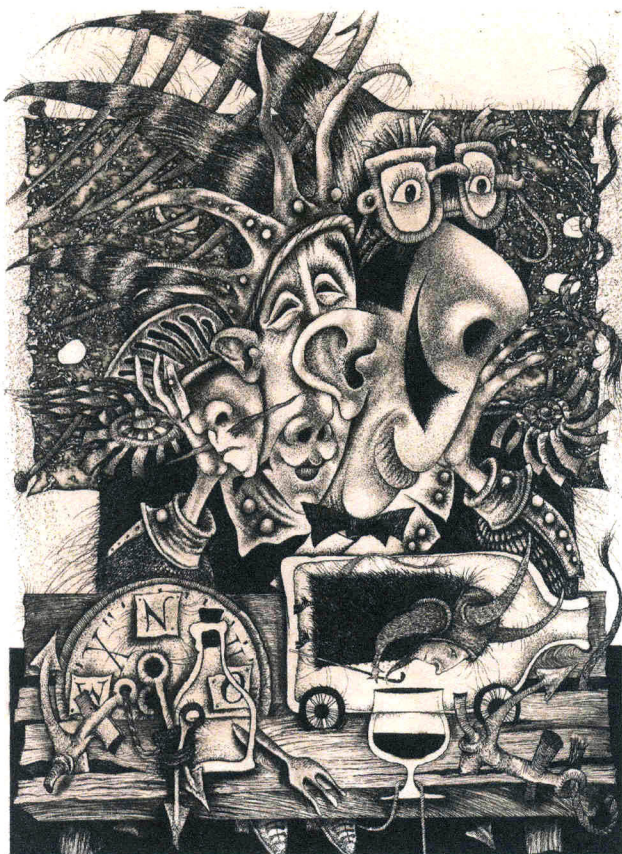
Nest, 1997, 10.1 x 14.7cm



Old Time, 1998, 11 x 14.1cm







Wine, 1999, 9.3 x 12.8cm

Cherchez la Femme, 2013, 10.5 x 15.1cm



Welcome 2000, 1999, 11 x 16.6cm

Victorius, 2015, 11.3 x 16.1cm





Success, 1995, 8.8 x 9.6cm

Funny, 1995, 7.6 x 7.6cm

