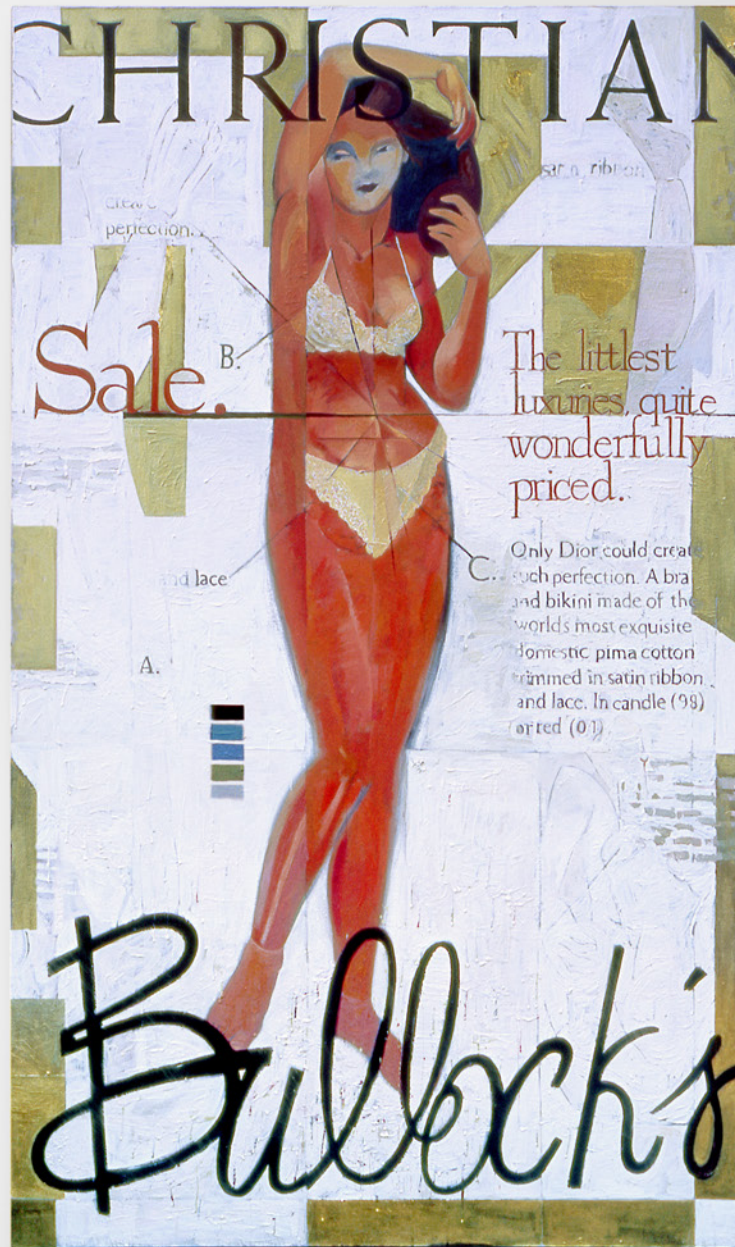


P R O S P E C T U S



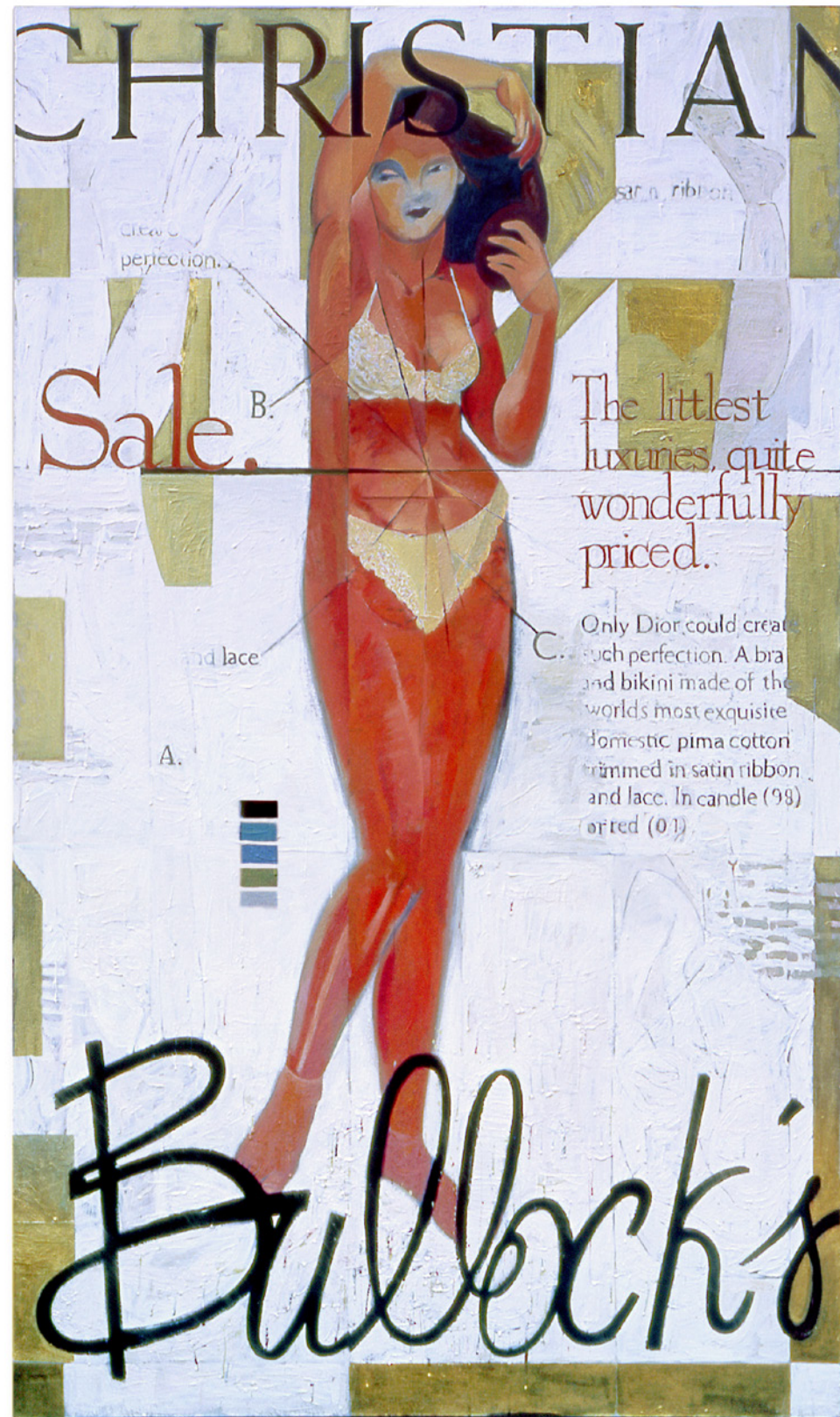
SUCH PERFECTION



An original mixed-media painting by

DEAN CHARLTON





The figure's pose in *Such Perfection* is based on an 1848 painting by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres depicting the birth of Venus as she emerges from the sea, nude yet fully-grown. For centuries, the miraculous Venus birth had been a favorite subject among artists, in part because her very nudity was interpreted as symbolizing the purity of Eve before original sin. Thus, artists might avoid the scandal and condemnation that often resulted when a naked woman without the same virtuous associations was pictured.



"Venus Anadyomene"
by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres,
1848

Conversely, a clothed Venus would likely be interpreted as representing the biblical fall from grace.

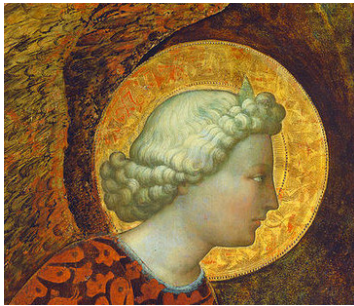
This complex—at times counterintuitive—relationship between art, religion, nudity and propriety has of course existed for eons. *Such Perfection* overtly announces this as a theme by inscribing the word "CHRISTIAN" in large letters across the top. Ostensibly referring to fashion designer Christian Dior, in light of the Venus pose referenced, there's little doubt about the allusion to the age-old morality conflict between the church and images of the nude female. Furthering this motif of religious and secular friction, the hyperbole-laden phrase "Only Dior could create such perfection"

directly contradicts the commonly held notion that God alone is without fault. Other instances of text cite commercial advertising lingo, whereas the use of metallic gold pigment and gold leaf suggests the common practice in classical painting of reserving gold for only the most reverent objects, such as the halo of a saint or angel.

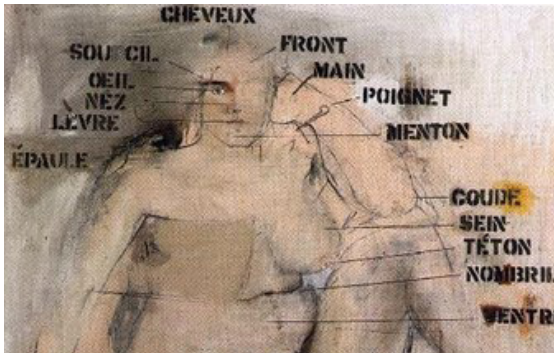
The model's vacant facial expression in *Such Perfection* suggests a sense of apathetic resignation about her surroundings, set as she is amidst a world of objectification and mercantilism derived from lingerie advertisements and catalogs. Her lethargic form floats weightlessly, contributing to the feeling of detachment.

Unlike the flawless skin of Ingres' Venus, the figure's body in *Such Perfection* is harshly subdivided into facets by a collection of lines and misaligned intersections. This disjointed fragmentation of the body is dehumanizing, possibly suggesting a mannequin.

The text-laden *Parts of the Body* series by Larry Rivers inspired the aesthetic in which physical beauty is sacrificed for the sake of data points and selling propositions.



The gold leaf halo from
"The Archangel Gabriel"
by Tommaso Christoforo Fini,
c. 1435



A detail from "Parts of the Body—French" by Larry Rivers,
1962

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Such Perfection is an original, mixed-media painting created using mainly oils and encaustic wax, with the addition of metallic gold paint and gold leaf.

The encaustic method—wherein melted beeswax is infused with various pigments and applied to the canvas using brushes—produces a heavy impasto on large parts of the surface. More information about encaustic art can be found on the following pages of this prospectus.

Oil paints were used primarily for the female figure and the lettering.

The surface for *Such Perfection* is a custom-built and stretched cotton canvas with reinforced framing. The measurements are: 44 inches wide by 72 inches high.

The edges are finished with the same metallic gold paint used within the work and so, it may hang unframed.

Initial work was completed in 2009, followed by revisions made in 2011–12. In 2018, repairs were made to correct minor shipping damage. The painting is signed on the reverse side.



A detail view showing the impasto buildup of the wax



Oil paints were used for
the figure and lettering

Encaustic is an ancient painting technique dating back to at least the 1st Century BC. Many art historians even consider several of the Lascaux cave paintings to be early forms of encaustic art.

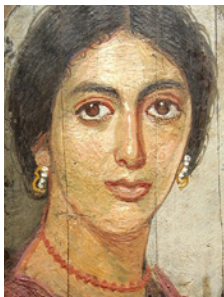
Its defining ingredient is heat.

Rather than suspending pigments in oils or polymers, the encaustic method employs melted beeswax — which is infused with various colors — and applied to a wood panel or canvas.

During the entire painting session the wax must be kept in a hot, liquid state. Today’s practitioners typically use electric griddles or a heated palette made specifically for encaustic painting.

In the 1950s, Jasper Johns revitalized and modernized encaustic painting by adroitly using its inherent dimensional characteristics to create sly, politically-charged Pop Art masterpieces that literally drip with visual satire. *Flag*, his 1955 depiction of the 48-state star spangled banner, may be his most famous example.

Contemporary artists continue to explore and expand the medium’s potential by incorporating an array of surfaces, tools and techniques.



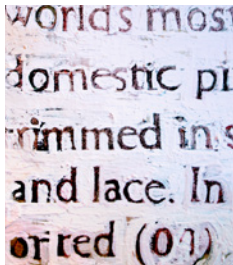
An Egyptian encaustic painting from around 100-300 AD



Jasper Johns, "Flag," 1955



A detail from "Flag"



Detail from "Such Perfection"



"May Co"



"Jontue"



"A Still Life with Apple"



"Quilt 2: Matisse"

ABOUT
ENCAUSTIC

ABOUT
THE ARTIST

Dean Charlton was born in Santa Monica, California, in 1957 and currently lives in Piedmont, California. He earned a BFA in Drawing & Painting from CSU Long Beach in 1980.

Dean’s work is a mash-up of his formal education and life-long absorption in the fine arts, combined with decades of on-the-job experience as an illustrator, graphic designer and ad man.

As a result, he frequently mixes traditional drawing and painting methods with digital apps and techniques. Dean will often use digital tools like Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to streamline the initial planning phases of a project, before switching to traditional media for its final realization.

The Pop Art movement, especially the work of Larry Rivers, Jim Dine, Claes Oldenburg, David Hockney and Wayne Thiebaud are major influences, as is the work of “proto-pop” masters Marcel Duchamp and Charles Demuth.

In particular, Jasper Johns’ encaustic paintings inspired his ongoing explorations with that medium.

Such Perfection is available for purchase at an asking price of \$15,000.

Interested collectors living within proximity of the San Francisco Bay Area are invited to schedule a private viewing. The artist's home-studio is in Piedmont, an East Bay neighborhood situated between North Oakland and Berkeley.

Collectors not within easy traveling distance of the San Francisco area are encouraged to consider reserving *Such Perfection*. When your schedule brings you to the Bay Area, a private viewing will gladly be arranged. To place this painting on reserve, a payment amounting to 20% of the ask price is requested. The deposit is fully refundable. The hold period is flexible and open to negotiation. Should you decide to proceed with the purchase, this initial payment will of course be credited to the transaction.

If a competing offer is made on *Such Perfection* after it has been reserved, the collector who placed it on hold will be contacted and given the right of first refusal.

Because encaustic paintings are more delicate than works done in oils or acrylics, the logistics involved in transporting this work beyond the greater Northern California area are rather complex. A custom-fitted shipping container manufactured by specialists is normally required. As a consequence, the cost of long-distance transport—solely for the purpose of a viewing—is prohibitive.

PRICE

VIEWINGS



The artist's studio is located in Piedmont, California

LOGISTICS



The painting will be delivered free of charge to locations within approximately 200 miles of the San Francisco Bay Area

For collectors within an approximately 200-mile radius of the Bay Area, delivery of *Such Perfection* is free of charge. The painting will be carefully prepared for highway travel, but will not require a custom-built shipping container. The delivery drivers are experienced art transport professionals.

California patrons in the Los Angeles area and beyond will incur some transport expenses, although in an elaborate, custom-fitted shipping crate may not be necessary.

A custom-made shipping crate will be required for collectors who want *Such Perfection* delivered to locations beyond 300 miles from San Francisco. Expect the combined cost of both the container and the shipping expenses to be approximately \$1,000 for most destinations within the continental US. Exact shipping costs will be calculated prior to final purchase.

Incremental cost increases should be anticipated for international transport, depending on distance.

CONTACT

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ARTIST STATEMENT

By combining figure painting with Pop Art and fashion influences my goal is to explore the symbolic and visual potential of the human form beyond the more traditional motive of pure idealization.

Such Perfection is the largest in a series of works in which profit-driven priorities confront the art world's historically lofty esteem for the nude. And by extension, religion's often uneasy relationship with nudity—and censorship—frequently enter into the equation.

*Throughout this series, I've intentionally downplayed the sensuality of the semi-nude figures in order to emphasize the theme of objectification. Specifically, the fragmented torso, detached facial expression, and misaligned body parts depicted in **Such Perfection** ironically represent the altogether imperfect, splintered, and dehumanizing forces brought to bear when beauty becomes an industry and is commercialized in the extreme.*

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