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Contact: 505-986-9800, [info@turnercarrollgallery.com](mailto:info@turnercarrollgallery.com)

*Hunt Slonem: Il Giardino Zoologico*

July 5 – August 4, 2024

### **MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST HUNT SLONEM BRINGS A MENAGERIE OF COLOR TO CANYON ROAD WITH *IL GIARDINO ZOOLOGICO* AT TURNER CARROLL GALLERY.**

SANTA FE, NM – [May 21, 2024] **July 5 – August 4, 2024** For his upcoming exhibition, *Il Giardino Zoologico*, Hunt Slonem will debut new paintings that act as windows to unique and wonderful worlds of animals and patterns. The exhibition title in Italian is a nod to Slonem's premiere exposure in Venice during the Biennale, and this Turner Carroll exhibition is a kind of *passaggiata* that lets viewers stop and peer into paintings that act as individual menageries.

Hunt Slonem, an influential figure in American art, has made an unforgettable impact on the global art scene. His art, distinguished by its vibrant portrayals of rabbits, birds, and butterflies, portraits of Abraham Lincoln and Queen Elizabeth II, has earned a prominent place in collections worldwide. This newest collection of paintings will feature some of his more abstract and experimental works. Through the use of colorful palettes and repetition, several of Slonem's paintings of butterflies, for example, become something more akin to color fields, landscapes, or tapestries. There is a vibrancy and charming aspect to the paintings in *Il Giardino Zoologico* that take viewers on a winding path into the mind of this well-traveled artist.

Hunt Slonem grew up in a military family and grew up in Hawaii, Virginia, and Connecticut. His time spent in Hawaii would leave a lasting impression on his work that is still evident. Slonem's neo-Expressionist, impastoed oeuvre depicts birds, exotic flowers, rabbits, butterflies, leopards, and many more colorful specimens. The animals are an alphabet through which he discusses life, whether they are stacked and divided bunnies as a stand-in for a self-portrait, or are crowded birds flurrying through the canvas as a metaphor to the New York art scene where Hunt worked alongside the likes of Andy Warhol and Truman Capote.

Hunt Slonem draws elements from Pop Art. He is perhaps best known for his series of portraits of Abraham Lincoln and his paintings of exotic birds and butterflies, he has said of his practice, "I was influenced by Warhol's repetition of soup cans and Marilyn. But I'm more interested in doing it in the sense of prayer, with repetition. It's a form of worship." Slonem employs this meditative strategy in captivating oil renderings of parrots, doves, macaws, and cockatoos—subjects that have been something of an obsession for the artist.

*The New Yorker* once reported that the artist could be found in his studio "painting away with a bird or two on his shoulders." Rabbits also inhabit his paintings which Slonem began painting after discovering he was born in the Chinese year of the rabbit. Fixated with a mantra-like repetition, Slonem's works are richly patterned and imbued with tender reverence for their subjects. You can see Slonem's works yourself during his exhibition at Turner Carroll Gallery from July 5 to August 4, 2024.

### **ABOUT HUNT SLONEM**

With a career spanning over four decades, Hunt Slonem has established himself as a prolific and internationally recognized artist. A graduate of the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Vanderbilt University, and Tulane University, his work has been exhibited globally and featured in over 350 exhibitions at prestigious galleries and museums. His art is proudly displayed in the collections of more than 100 museums worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

### **ABOUT TURNER CARROLL**

Turner Carroll Gallery + Art Advisors exhibits international contemporary art by established and emerging museum-track artists. Founded in 1991 by Tonya Turner Carroll and Michael Carroll, the gallery embodies extensive knowledge of the history of art and vast experience in all aspects of the art world. Turner Carroll authors artist monographs, serves on boards of art museums, foundations, manages artist estates, curates museum and art space exhibitions internationally, and advises private and corporate art collections. Turner Carroll Gallery artists are featured in top private and museum collections worldwide. Turner Carroll has curated museum and institutional exhibitions for artists from Eastern European countries, Mexico, Italy, Ireland, Argentina, and China.

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