



Walter Mika *Untitled* Oil Pastel on Paper 31"x45½" 2004

Walter Mika was born in 1961 in Queens, N.Y. A passionate artist known for his energetic and primitive use of line, color and form, Mika has been creating work daily for the past 15 years. His large-scale drawings reflect an interest in cartoons, movies and other aspects of popular culture. Mika's art is included in numerous private collections and has garnered important recognition through the New York State Exceptional Artworks exhibitions and articles in magazines such as *Arts & Antiques* and *Envision Folk Art*.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

2003–06 *Annual Outsider Art Fair*, The Puck Building, New York City

2005 *Pure Visions in the City*, Pure Vision Arts Gallery, New York City

2005 *Art View*, City Museum of Washington, D.C.



Pure Vision Arts
at Marlborough Chelsea

WELCOME TO PURE VISION ARTS AT MARLBOROUGH CHELSEA

Pure Vision Arts at Marlborough Chelsea was organized to benefit Pure Vision Arts (PVA), a non-profit studio and exhibition space located in Chelsea for artists with autism and other developmental disabilities. In a very short time, PVA has helped to fill a major void for artists seeking a decent place to work in a city of high rents. While PVA's working artists face significant obstacles — as both artists and citizens — they are successfully pursuing creative livelihoods through this supportive loft space, which offers an attractive alternative to working alone or on the fringes.

While some of the studio's artists are just getting started, the artists' featured here are accomplished. Their high-caliber work is widely exhibited and increasingly collected. Painters Jessica Park and William Britt have emerged as significant cultural contributors. Writing of their remarkable lives, Oliver Sacks and Maya Angelou have honored the way they observe and illuminate overlooked aspects of our world. Britt taught himself to paint during the 34 years he lived in the infamous Willowbrook State School; Park has been highly generative despite the formidable challenges posed by her autism.

The unique neurological perspectives of PVA's tenacious artists contribute to their work's freshness, originality, and pureness of vision. Hence, the studio's name, Pure Vision Arts.

PVA is helping artists find greater opportunities to live, work, and participate within the mainstream. In a word: to be included. And these artists are helping to sustain New York as a place of vision and hope for all of us who value cultural vibrancy and diversity in the arts.

KIM WAUSON

Director
Marlborough Chelsea

PURE VISION IN NEW YORK CITY

Thank you for supporting the Pure Vision Arts (PVA) studio. Pure Vision is creating opportunities, changing lives, and demonstrating how specialized art venues contribute vitality to New York's future as an artistic center. All those who visit our Chelsea space feel an electric excitement that marks it as a bright star in the city's cultural firmament. Our thanks go to Marlborough Chelsea for generously opening up their gallery and giving added momentum to these artists as they engage a larger public audience via inclusion in important galleries, museums, private collections and major publications. Pure Vision artists have led remarkable lives. The sheer power and uniqueness of their expression adds greatly to our humanity and helps society advance by reducing negative stereotypes about people who have disabilities. We invite you to visit us as we continue building an appreciative audience for New York's first studio and exhibition space for artists with developmental challenges.

PAMALA ROGERS, ED.D.

Director
Pure Vision Arts

Pure Vision Arts at Marlborough Chelsea

A benefit art auction and exhibition featuring artists with autism and other developmental disabilities.



The Pure Vision Artists

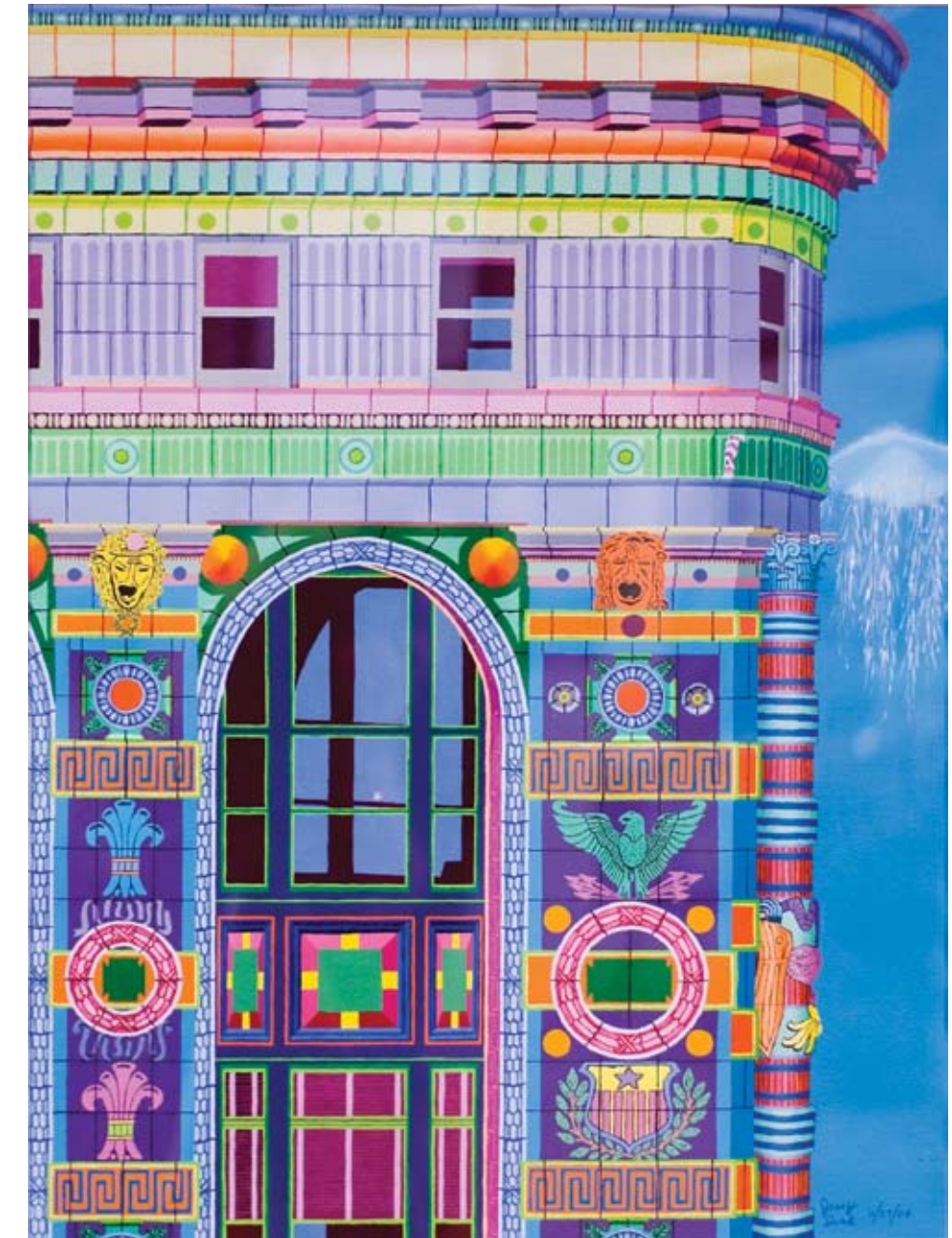
CHERYL RIVERS

The Pure Vision artists belong to a very special art world that has played a significant role in the development of contemporary art. The art making of people with unusual mental states found its first forceful supporters at the turn of the twentieth century. The early discoverers, European psychiatrists committed to current theories of psychology, initially viewed the productions of institutionalized patients under their care as the equivalents of dreams and fantasies that might reveal unconscious motivations. They also attempted to find patterns in the work that might serve as diagnostic tools. However, the most sensitive of these supporters also recognized that the creations of their patients, with private symbols and highly individualistic vocabularies of form, shared the aesthetic qualities associated with modernism.

By mid-century, artists like Jean Dubuffet had come to champion the spontaneity and originality of artists whose atypical perceptions allowed them the freedom to create without reference to art history. Mainstream artists began to view artists with disabilities as trailblazers, and collectors of modern art began to seek out these artists' creations. During the 1970s, when people once defined as "patients" were "deinstitutionalized," the art making of people with disabilities received a further boost. Mental health professionals, families of former patients, and artists joined to found studios that recognized the value of aesthetic experiences, fostered individual expression, and presented artwork to an increasingly appreciative audience.

Since 2002, Pure Vision Arts has opened the world of art making to many creators and has proved a dedicated advocate for those exceptional artists whose works deserve to hang on the walls of galleries, museums, and collector's homes. Pure Vision's sensitive staff clearly prizes the inventive strategies of artists with disabilities. As the works of William Britt, Susan Brown, Leon McCutcheon, and Jessica Park demonstrate, Pure Vision artists are free to go where they will and develop their irreducibly individualistic styles. The Pure Vision artists' works, thus, invite a multitude of individualistic responses. Like all contemporary art, the works may confound us; they may confront us; perhaps best of all, they may make us laugh. This art, vital and transformative, is the real thing. So, how can we best celebrate the achievements of Pure Vision Arts and honor the artists who belong to this remarkable artistic community? Simple. We can take these pure visions home with us and let them enrich our lives — just as they have enriched the lives of their creators.

Cheryl Rivers is a foremost authority on the work of self-taught artists. She has a Ph.D. from Columbia University and a Certificate in Folk Art Studies from the American Folk Art Museum's Folk Art Institute, where she currently teaches. She recently edited *Donald Mitchell: Right Here, Right Now*, published in 2004, and serves on the advisory board of Pure Vision Arts.



Jessica Park *Flatiron Building* Acrylic on Paper 22½"x16½" 2004

A widely recognized self-taught artist, Jessica Park was born in 1958 and grew up in Williamstown, Mass., where she lives with her family. Known for her detailed and colorful pop art architectural paintings of bridges, buildings, houses and churches, Park's acrylic paintings have a distinctive other worldly brilliance about them. Stories about Park have been featured in *Time Magazine*, *The New Yorker* and a film by the neurologist Dr. Oliver Sacks. She is also the subject of a seminal book by her mother, the writer Clara Claiborne Park, titled *Exiting Nirvana, A Daughter's Life with Autism*. In 2003, Park received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Her work is included in many private collections and has been widely exhibited, including two solo exhibitions.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

2005	<i>Pure Visionaries/Artists on the Spectrum</i> , The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, Great Hall Gallery, New York City
2004–05	Annual <i>Outsider Art Fair</i> , The Puck Building, New York City
2001	<i>Rage for Order</i> , Solo Exhibition, Margaret Bodell Gallery, New York City
1993	<i>The Great Stained Glass Doors and Other Extraordinary Depictions</i> , Solo Exhibition, Very Special Arts Gallery, Boston, Mass.



William Britt *Untitled* Acrylic on Board 37"x49" 2005

William Britt is an accomplished and widely collected, self-taught artist with a developmental disability. Born in 1935, he was sent to the infamous Willowbrook State School on Staten Island in New York as a child, where he remained for 34 years. When Britt was a frustrated young boy, a doctor at the school gave him paints and encouraged him to express himself. He drew on paper and wooden boards before painting on canvas. Following Willowbrook's demise in 1974, Britt lived in a group home in Westchester, N.Y., where he continued developing as a still-life and landscape painter. Today, he resides in his own home in Stony Point, N.Y., an area known for its natural beauty. His masterful, intricately detailed paintings in the folk tradition have won him national recognition, including a Kennedy Center Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement in 1986, when his creative gifts were immortalized in Maya Angelou's poem "William Britt." His work is included in a growing number of collections.



Susan Brown *Mom* Mixed Media on Cardboard 19"x31" 2005

Susan Brown, who has autism, was born in 1957 in Copiague, N.Y. She began drawing at age 5, encouraged by her artistic mother and aunt. Brown's first drawings were of spirals, women and cars. She began making her characteristic grid-like drawings on cardboard in the 1980's while working as a dishwasher at Friendly's, where cardboard packing was readily available. Brown's work reflects her eclectic interests and is drawn from her prodigious memory of growing up on Long Island. Brown has been featured on *CBS Sunday Morning*. Her paintings and drawings are widely exhibited and included in numerous corporate and private collections.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

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| 2005 | <i>Pure Visionaries/Artists on the Spectrum</i> , The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, Great Hall Gallery, New York City |
| 2005 | <i>Art, Autism, Aspergers</i> , Ricco Maresca Gallery, New York City |
| 2003-05 | Annual <i>Outsider Art Fair</i> , The Puck Building, New York City |



Leon McCutcheon *A Little Girl Purple Dress With Flowers Around Her* Acrylic on Canvas 24"x36" 2005

Leon McCutcheon lives in Manhattan where he was born in 1959. His parents, a jazz musician and a milliner, exposed him to the arts from an early age. Fashion and music figure prominently in his work which is also influenced by his memories of visiting his grandparents in South Carolina as a child. A political activist and advocate, McCutcheon has emerged as a spokesperson on disability issues, and has appeared on WNYC radio's Leonard Lopate show. The originality and folk-like quality of his work has attracted the attention of curators and collectors interested in contemporary American folk art.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

2005	<i>Art View</i> , City Museum of Washington, D.C.
2004-05	Annual Benefit Exhibition and Art Auction, Museum of American Folk Art, New York City
2003-05	Annual <i>Outsider Art Fair</i> , The Puck Building, New York City



Barry Kahn *Untitled* Marker on Paper 16½"x19" 2005

Barry Kahn was born in 1979 and lives with his parents in Long Island, N.Y. Kahn, who began attending the Pure Vision Arts studio in 2005, has been drawing consistently since the age of 3. Using markers, he creates unique drawings that form complex geometric designs with distorted figures. Surrealistic and often unsettling, he says that these works depict actual dreams and nightmares that "do not make sense," explaining, "Sometimes I dream about things like scary clowns chasing me around a building that is on fire and full of smoke."

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

2006	Pure Vision Arts Group exhibitions, New York City
2005	<i>Pure Visionaries/Artists on the Spectrum</i> , The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, Great Hall Gallery, New York City



Victor Cristescu *Untitled* Pencil on Paper 19"x20" 2005-2006

Victor Cristescu, born in Romania in 1955, moved to New York City with his family in the 1980s. Never without his pencil and paper, Cristescu, who has been drawing since a young child, slowly creates his small and cryptic architectural renderings, each one uniquely different, but always reflecting his sole interest in churches and Christian iconography. Cristescu's art-making at the Pure Vision Arts studio continues to play a liberating role in the life of this gifted, non-verbal man whose work has been exhibited internationally and is included in many private collections.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

2005	Jack Fischer Gallery, San Francisco, Calif.
2005	City Museum of Washington, D.C.
2003-05	Annual <i>Outsider Art Fair</i> , The Puck Building, New York City
2003-05	Pure Vision Arts exhibitions, Pure Vision Arts, New York City



Erich Preis *Truck* Acrylic on Canvas 31"x41" 2005

Erich Preis was born in Texas and currently lives in Huntington, N.Y. Bullied as a child, art became not only his comfort, but his calling. Preis who is 34-years-old, recently discovered that he has Asperger syndrome. A trained oil painter, illustrator and sculptor, he has taught art in the schools and is exploring ways to support the creative strengths of young people with autism. A certified teacher of recreational therapy, Preis also employs art to teach violence prevention and conflict resolution.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

2005	Pure Vision Arts exhibition, Pure Vision Arts, New York City
2002-04	Group Showing, Broome Street Gallery, Soho, New York City
1994	Exhibition, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City



Daniel Monrose *Untitled* Colored Pencil on Paper 19"x24" 2005

Daniel Monrose was born in 1967 in Jamaica, N.Y., where he lives with his father. His delicate pastels and colored pencil drawings of landscapes and animals reflect his careful observation of the natural world. His portraits and still lifes are frequently drawn from his imagination. Monrose's work is included in numerous private collections.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

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| 2005 | <i>Spring Benefit Exhibition & Auction</i> , American Folk Art Museum, New York City |
| 2005 | <i>Pure Visions in the City</i> , Pure Vision Arts Gallery, New York City |
| 2003-05 | <i>Annual Outsider Art Fair</i> , The Puck Building, New York City |
| 2002 | <i>Diverse Faces/Diverse Cultures</i> , Pace University Art Gallery, New York City |

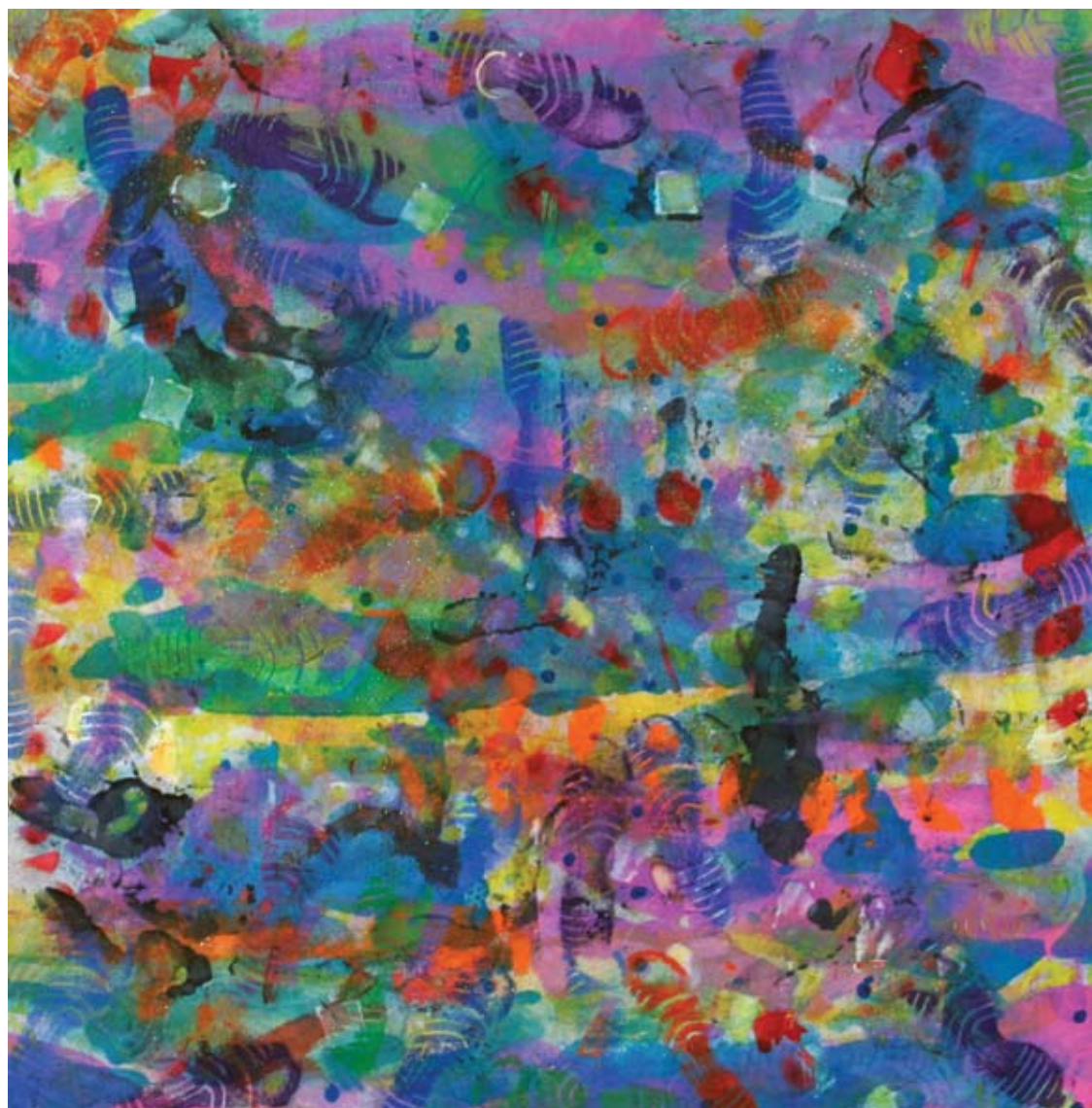


Christopher Platt *Barn* Pen and Ink on Paper 17"x19" 1994

Christopher Platt was born in 1952 in Rochester, N.Y., and has been drawing since the age of 5. His detailed pen and ink drawings are created from memory and include studies of buildings, household objects and the natural world. Platt lives in Connecticut in a residence for adults with autism, where he uses his art to help raise autism awareness. His drawings are included in private and corporate collections.

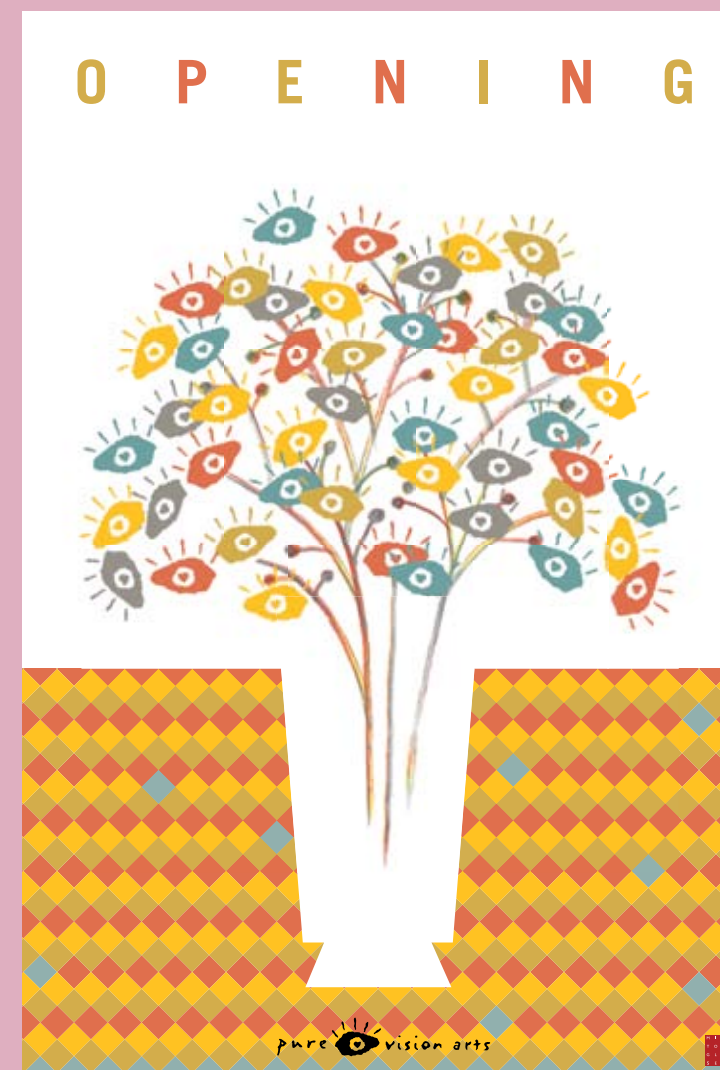
SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

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| 2005 | <i>Pure Visionaries/Artists on the Spectrum</i> , The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, Great Hall Gallery, New York City |
| 2003-06 | <i>Annual Outsider Art Fair</i> , The Puck Building, New York City |



Matthew Safai *Walking Man* Mixed Media on Canvas 60"x60" 2005-2006

The Pure Vision Arts (PVA) studio is also destination for adults who are not artists. Matthew Safai's painting, created over the course of 18 months, reflects his delight in walking. This colorful canvas emanated from a journey in which his musical interests and walking routes and destinations expanded. On his continuing walks through Manhattan, he takes pleasure in exploring new places as well as revisiting familiar ones. At PVA this sometimes involves walking, with or without shoes, across the 2,500 square foot studio, listening to his favorite music. His bare footprints on this canvas relate the comfort he takes experiencing the world through his feet.



Milton Glaser *Opening Eyes* Giclée Print on Paper 45"x30" 2006

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS ARTISTS

In support of the Pure Vision Arts (PVA) studio, Milton Glaser, Richard Haas and David Remfry have donated works for auction.

Milton Glaser, perhaps the most influential American graphic artist of our time, created an original work, *Opening Eyes*, in recognition of the contributions of the PVA artists. Glaser's creation, demonstrating his rare ability to communicate ideas with graphic eloquence, will be appreciated at the PVA studio and beyond for years to come. Our community is grateful for his inspiring gift, which includes a rare, limited, signed edition of prints to be auctioned and sold here tonight.

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