

PRESS RELEASE



839 Larkin Street San Francisco, CA 94109 (P) 415 931 8035 www.shootinggallerysf.com

Fur and Feathers

New Works by Chris Pugliese

Opening Reception: July 12th, 2010, from 7-11 pm.
Show runs through: August 7th, 2010, and is open to the public.

The Shooting Gallery is proud to present *Fur and Feathers: New Works* by Chris Pugliese. This exhibition features traditional paintings of contemporary subject matter to celebrate nonconformity in contemporary America. Please join us for the opening reception of *Fur and Feathers* on Saturday, July 10th, 2010, from 7-11 pm.

Fur and Feathers is a collection of eight oil paintings that combine Italian Renaissance techniques with contemporary subject matter. Costume design serves as a window into the alternative lifestyle choices of his portrait subjects; their fur trim, feather boas, smoky eyes, and black clothing signal the individual's defiance of a conventional American mindset. Inspired by the stories and dramas of his friend's lives, Pugliese questions America's social expectation for a homogeneous physical appearance, lifestyle, and mindset. Chris paints subjects with rich character emanating through their clothes and expressions, yet these portraits do not encompass one individual as much as a complex set of emotions. Through his classic aesthetic, Chris equates the courage of modern day nonconformist heroes with the persecuted saints of Raphael and Caravaggio's 19th Century paintings. Perseverance, love, and staying true to oneself are the unifying traits of each portrait in this collection.

Chris chooses his models for their unorthodox dress and character. He works from life as much as possible, using his own photographs for further reference. His subject matter reflects an obsession with people watching while his form is clearly influenced by the Italian Master's use of volume. Distinct from photorealism, this traditional style reveals angelic compassion and sweetness in the subject. Ultimately, the subject's soft features reveal a deep desire to connect with and understand people.

Chris Pugliese's education includes coursework at six institutions located in New York City, Philadelphia, France, and Italy. He has been teaching for the past 17 years and currently leads classes at New York Academy of Art. His solo exhibitions have been displayed in New York City galleries such as The Forbes Gallery, Arcadia Gallery, and Eleanor Ettinger Gallery, and national galleries including New Britain Museum of American Art in Connecticut and John Pence Gallery in San Francisco. He received awards from Art Renewal Center in 2006 and 2007 and has been published in *American Artist* and *New York Times*.

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