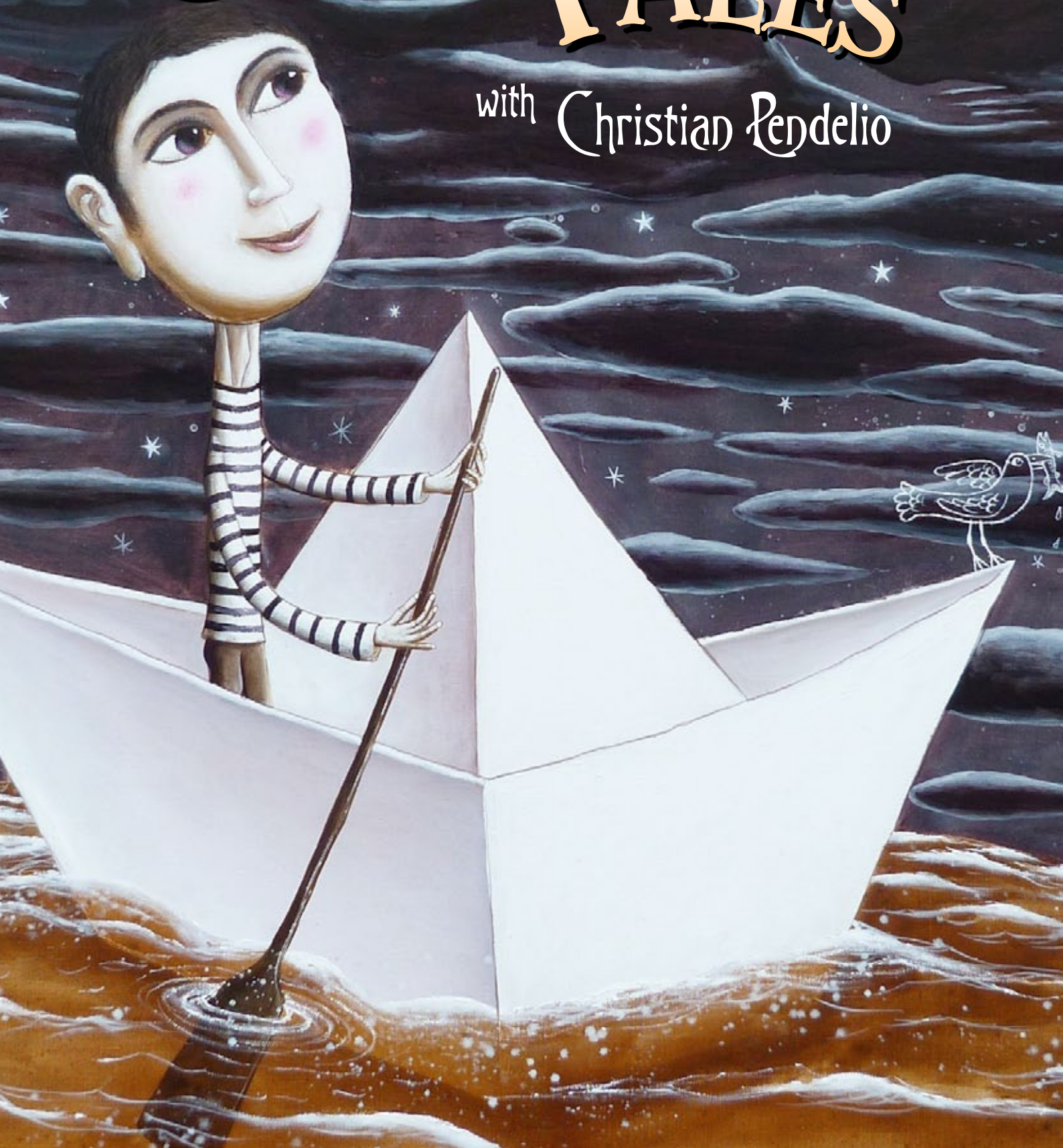


ODETOART CONTEMPORARY

CHILDHOOD TALES

with Christian Bendelio



Childhood Tales
with Christian Pendelio
& Eric Chomis

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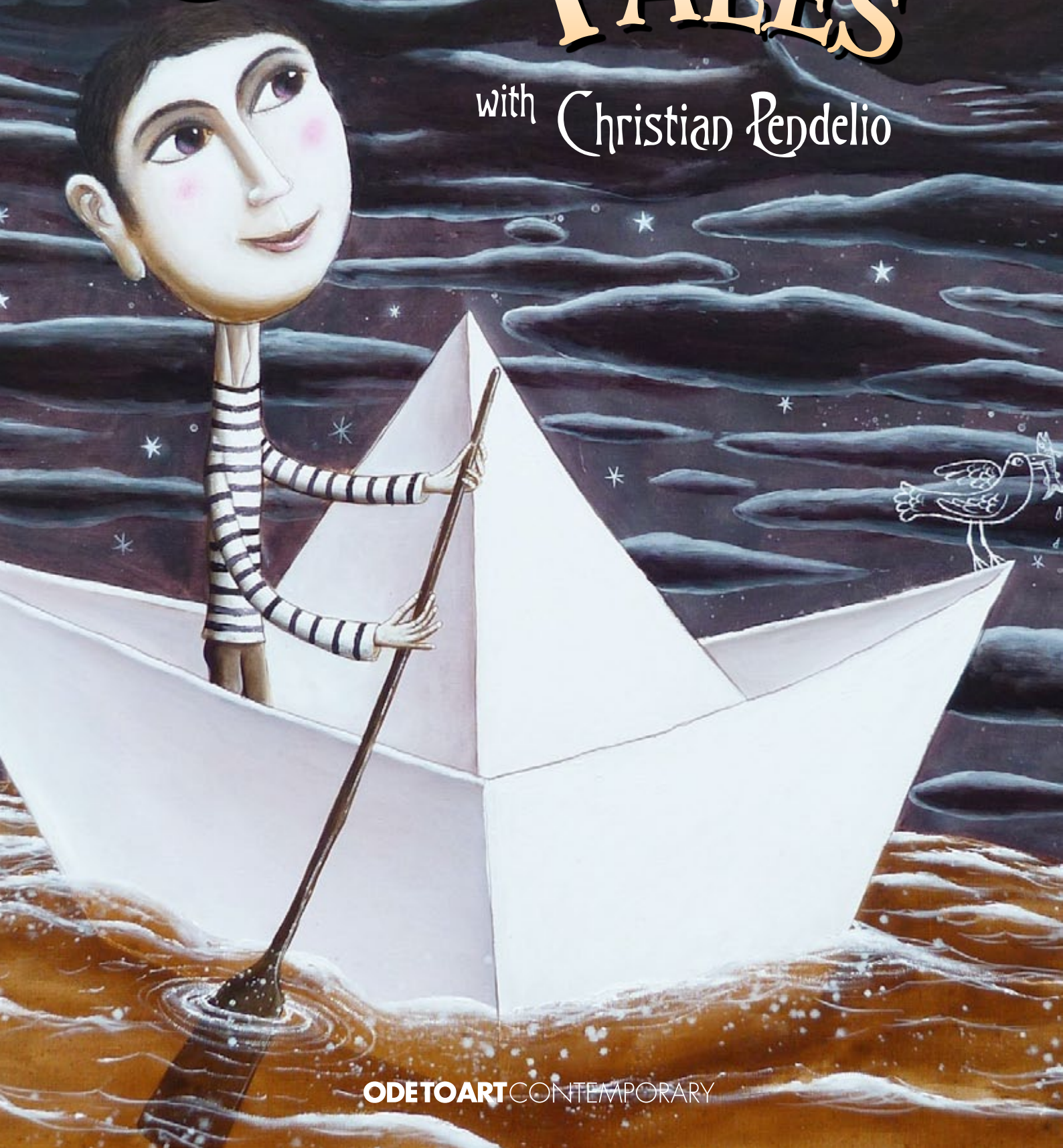
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ODE TO ART CONTEMPORARY

CHILDHOOD TALES

with Christian Bendelio



ODETOART CONTEMPORARY



On the fertile snail

120 X 120 cm

Man is link between the infinitesimal and the infinitely big;
I represented here poetically, a girl moving on the fertile snail
touching with her hands both flowers' antennas and the moon...

The dress decorated with flowers symbolize her fertility.

On Childhood Tales

Our childhood memories are invaluable. If we compare our lives to a kind of “gold rush”, we as prospectors seek what is precious in life by shaking and turning gold pans in the water. Whatever enters the pans are mainly sifted out, but the prized treasures are always left behind at the bottom.

To me, childhood tales are gold in our existence, and should remain throughout our lives. The memories of aged men and women are often summoned throughout time and transformed into an eternal come-back. What I attempt to find through the art of painting is to achieve something close to this: the enjoyment, the surprising, the marvellous aspects of life – with perhaps a special touch of fantasy. For me, a child’s world is free of reality where the frontier between the real and imaginary world are completely abolished.

Through my most recent paintings, I have attempted to explore reality and fantasy as two distinct yet conjoined points on a roof. The brown and white colours represent memories of true existence, captured and eternalised in sepia photographs. The vivid, bright rainbows of colour symbolize a projection of emotions and fantasies of childhood flights of fancy. The creation of these images were inspired by Paul Klee’s words: “Art does not reproduce the visible – it makes it.”

Some may find that attempting to ‘catch’ or preserve the flowers of my own childhood garden, as narcissistic. And perhaps in a way, it is; a common problem among artists. I simply hope this ‘mirror of a narcissist’ is large enough to project yourself onto; to discover merriment, figments of a child’s imagination and most importantly, gold.



~ CHRISTIAN PENDELIO ~



Love music over the village

92 x 73 cm

Music unites people and hearts, thus I put in balance two lovers back-to-back, playing their notes on a flower, above the village...

Foreword

“All great art originates from the innocent child within us expressing itself through the wisdom, experience and skill of an adult.” - Richard Schmid

It is often said that having a rest is to walk a longer distance. Meeting Christian Pendelio and Eric Chomis in Paris made me realize the true meaning of this saying, as it is reflective of their free-spirited and light-hearted personalities.

Because they share a friendship together with several similarities, it is also no wonder that their works exude a common thematic bliss. Their art is brimming with stories of childhood innocence never lost, and the magic of childhood eternalised in every stroke and splash of colour. As we adults are often caught up in the practical aspects of their daily lives, appreciating the works of Pendelio and Chomis makes me feel as if I am taking a break from the rush and bustle of the outside world.

Christian Pendelio's characters and fairytale landscapes bring me back to to the whimsical fantasies of my childhood, where I once dreamed of marvellous adventures while indulging in the simple pleasures of life. Eric Chomis' works are always unique due their three dimensional qualities: the vast landscapes are tell of several stories simultaneously on the canvas, bustling with the delightful activities of people, nature and animals - very much like how we would imagine jumble of a child's imagination come to life before our very eyes.

I have found great respite from the innocence and joy emanating from the works of these two remarkable men – and I am most glad to share with you the unique tales they tell within each painting. Tales which are reminiscent of not just their childhoods, but I believe many of ours.



~ JAZZ CHONG ~

DIRECTOR, ODE TO ART



The children love butterfly

162 x 130 cm



Biography

CHRISTIAN PENDELIO

Christian Pendelio was born in 1967 in Toulouse, France, of Britannic parents.

Fascinated by the art of drawing at a young age, Pendelio was inspired by the comic books which he spent hours reading in the library. The self-taught French artist began his artistic career by producing and selling comic strips and watercolor paintings. He developed a particular penchant for expressing poetic metaphors using symbols such as birds, butterflies, hearts and flowers to bring out the poetry of life. Pendelio's works are now displayed in private collections all over the world, particularly in France, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Christian is most famous for turning his canvas into a magical world of fairy tales, spiced with witty allegories. His passion for life and his faith in love give his work a whimsical touch. The dreamy paintings present not only a playful tone, but also gives way the stories and romance concocted within his mind. Landscape is more than just a depiction of a scenery, but the imagery deduced from fantasy and voyages, as well as the projection of inner feelings; whereas a voyage is often a process of discovery and evocation of emotions and wishes, long-forgotten or buried deep in one's heart.







Princess with a rose sceptre

92 x 73 cm

A princess is crowned but barefoot, representing our sacred and humble sides at the same time...

She holds a rose in hand, symbolizing the reign on a fleeting kingdom: a butterfly opening and closing his wings on the fragility and beauty of life.





Garden cat for happy children

120 x 120 cm

Here two lovers, travelling on a big cat in the garden.

This painting represents harmony between humans,
flora and fauna, and animals.



Two children navigating on the smile of their mom

120 X 120 cm

The smile of our parents the day we were born, gave me the idea of this “boat-mouth”.

I also think that the smiles of our mothers accompany us during our existence, paradoxically “hidden”.



Children merry-go-round in a miracle season

92 x 73 cm

Two parents, as protective brackets, surround
a “garden-merry-go-round” - children together with flowers
on a merry winter landscape.



Garden circus

92 x 73 cm

A girl springs into balance, between flower and rosebush,
enjoying the lightness and joys of life.



Exodus fish

92 x 73 cm

A biblical episode: the Exodus.
They are on a flight to Egypt and also escaping towards hope.

Music perfume of the angel

92 x 73 cm

What puts us in communion is music. Here, the musical notes ascending into the air from the violin are roses, and these are taken in by an angel passing by.





Swing in the bird kingdom

92 x 73 cm

I like the ideas of fragile, almost miraculous balances, symbolizing
for me miracle of life.

The rope of the swing and the girl is surrounded by birds, which
brings joy and melody to her surroundings.



Girl swinging under the night sun

92 x 73 cm

Another miraculous situation, a girl whose swing is attached to a sunflower which symbolizes a sun in the midst of the night.

All hopes bird

92 x 73 cm

A girl is freeing a bird of colors, carrying a heart...
Concurrently, she is freeing her hopes and dreams out
into the unknown.







Childhood kingdom

92 x 73 cm

Colorful graffiti appears to be scribbled over the walls of monochrome surroundings, as a girl is dreamily lying in her bare room with her cat. Look closely and you will realize the 'graffiti' is actually emerging from her book, transforming her room into a magic kingdom. The power of the unlimited imagination of the child, for me fertile compost of our adults' dreams.



The butterfly of freed sentiments

92 x 73 cm

“The butterflies are flowers, which simply forgot their stalks.”

This painting symbolizes the need for us to free our feelings, just as the butterfly escapes the petals of the flower which the boy is holding.



The tree of the rising feelings

92 x 73 cm

An almost nostalgic scene: a sleeping beauty in a brown and sienna garden. From her heart appears a tree of the feelings, in varied fruits, among which children dream of life and fertility.



Joy butterflies

92 x 73 cm

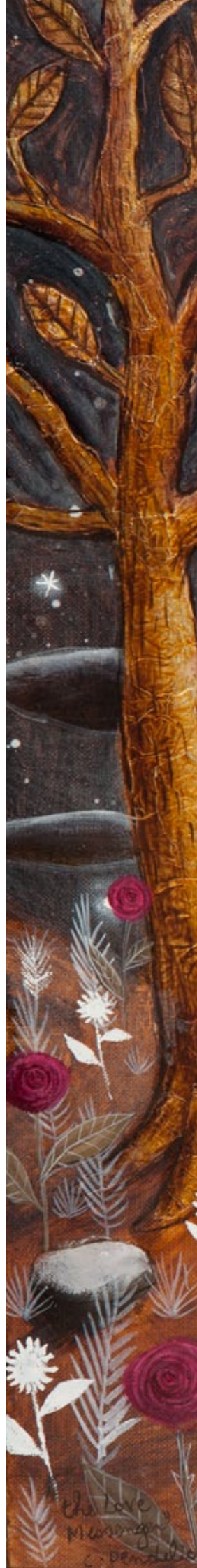
A girl runs freely among the fields in pursuit of joy, symbolized by the butterflies which surround her.

The love messenger

65 x 54 cm

I'd like to think of women as fertile gardens of the humanity; leaving from there, with humor I make the men in simple vectors, restoring them their fragile dimension...

So they are often butterflies, or perch birds...







Dreamed childhood city

92 x 73 cm

Children should not be limited by the tangibility of toys. Here, using colors on a monochrome background to represent a city of dreams which they are building, it is the dreams of today's children which later on build the future cities of adults.



Love air

162 x 130 cm

Two lovers in embrace are being lifted by a large bird with a heart in its mouth, symbolizing how love is uplifting.

Roses cascade from the sky and representing liberation from a garden.





You're my garden... and you my loving butterfly

162 x 130 cm



Ille thip
Epistaur
C. Dendro



Girl cherishing her muse-bird

100 x 81 cm

This girl abandons her instrument, left in the grass and almost invisible, to take care of the bird muse and cherish him...

What is important is not in the instrument but what we put in it...







Desire isthmus

180 x 60 cm

The girl is teasing a cat with a plant stalk, putting this creature at the crossway of sentiments: it is afraid, yet excited. Tension is reinforced by the panoramic size of this painting, creating a desire isthmus where the girl and cat are situated at the part of the garden where the ground is bare.





The two artists

100 x 81 cm

The artists often confront their own work to that, bigger of the nature, who is moreover very often a profound inspirer. The girl-musician has the visit from a musician of nature.



Ride on the constellation fish

65 x 54 cm

The carp escapes from its condition as a symbol of the courage. It is a fish common in my town close to the sea; the boy on this fish is jumping up from the sea to catch a star.

The boy will have both fish and star: a tangible meal, and his dream symbolized by the star.



A love king bird

65 x 54 cm

Two loving children form a picture of the twilight of innocence, soaring on a crowned bird which is king of the bright night full of emotions.



My love in the sky

120 X 120 cm

A man is sailing in a fragile paper ship, his eyes like holes against the night sky. He is following an imaginary love, a mermaid in the sky. Here, I represent the fragility of life, suggested by the paper ship in the sea. The moving clouds in the sky point towards the transience of beauty in life.



The cat of happy children souvenirs

162 x 130 cm

A great tall cat jumps in a paradoxical landscape, where open flowers are emerging from snowy fields. On his back are collected souvenirs with imaginary riders. Children are playing winter games: skiing, throwing snowballs... For me, this means the 'permanence' of childhood joys and memories, independent of the seasons that have crossed – just as miraculous as the first season of our lives.

Motherhood with a musician bird.

51 x 60 cm

This is a painting of tenderness between mother and son.
The hair of the mother forms a protective curtain around her
and around the child...





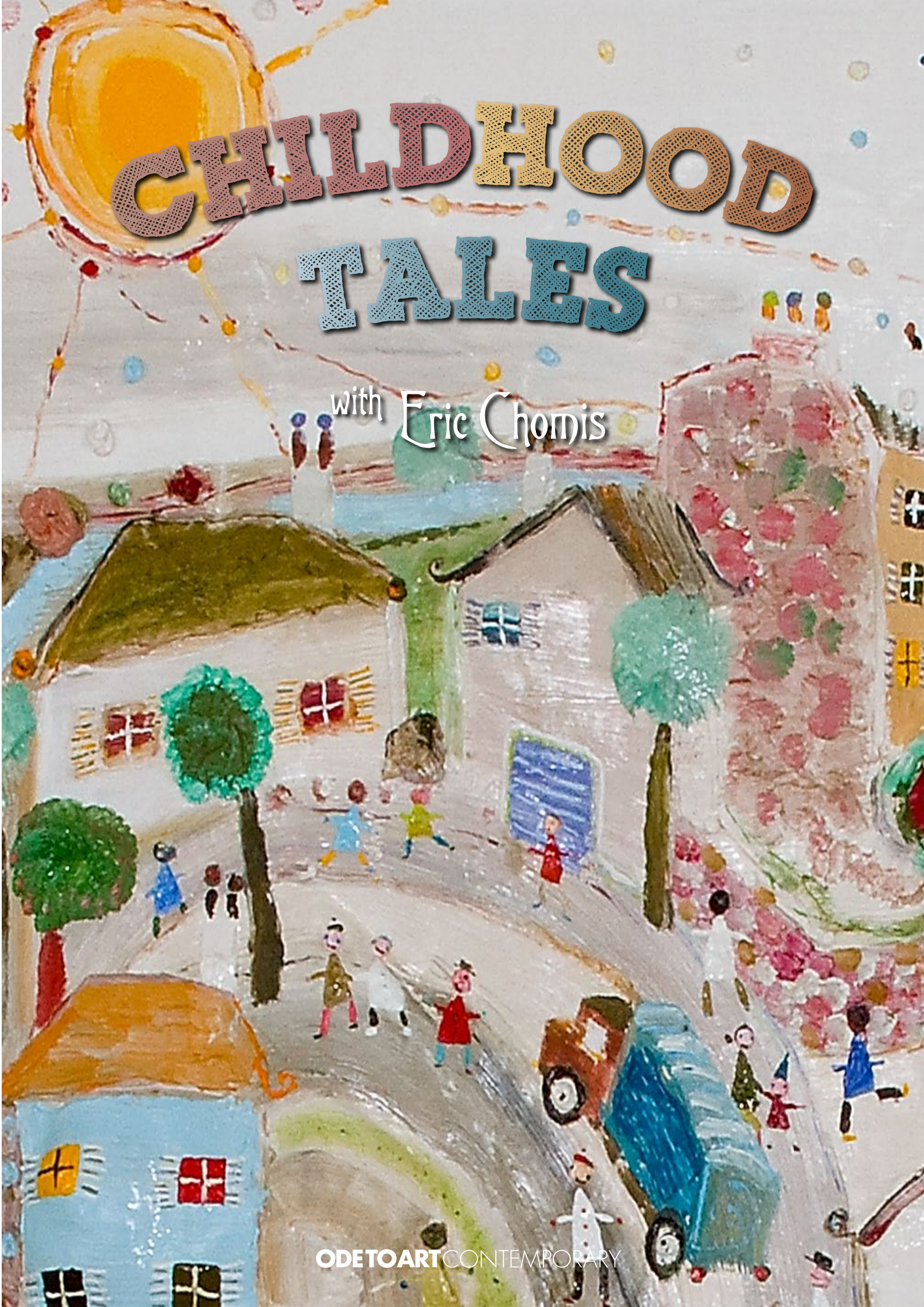


THE GREAT ADVENTURE



Fish & ship family

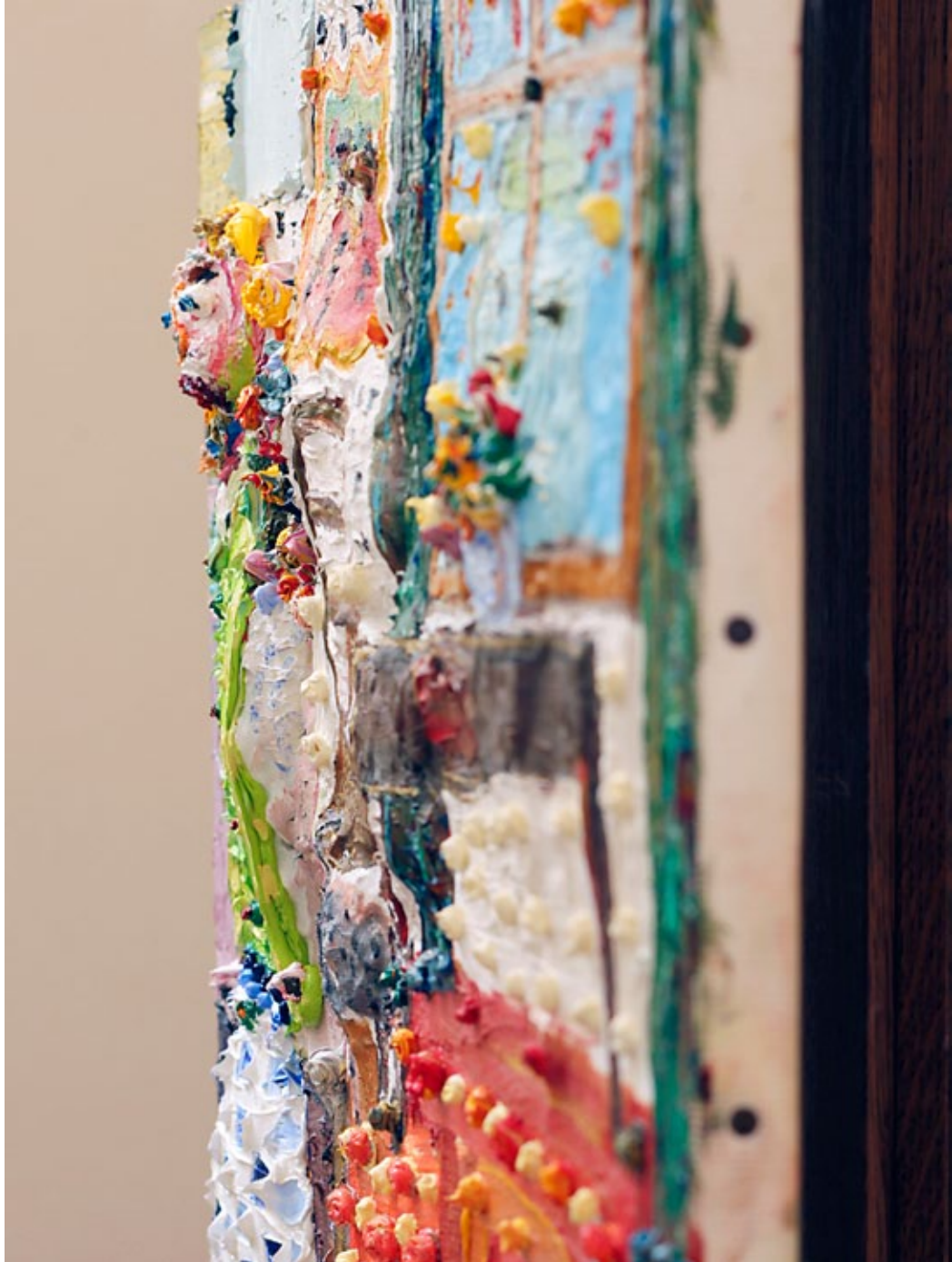
162 x 130 cm



CHILDHOOD TALES

with Eric Chomis

ODETOART CONTEMPORARY



Eric Chomis

Behind a painting, there is a being. And the truth of this being is reflected in the truth of his painting. There are many beautiful works in this world; but so far the stories that they tell us are based on the record of creation, authenticity, beauty and poetry, the 'be's: Who am I? Who are you? Who are we?

When you look at a work of Eric Chomis, much critical thinking is required to process the underlying meaning: many colors are not aligned and juxtaposed. Instead, they are mixed, linked, yet entangled. Their beauty originates from a confusion of colors which the painter plays well – or as they say regarding music, plays well in register. Eric Chomis is an alchemist of color. Besides the common artistic ability to produce visuals which his audience can identify with, Chomis introduces another dimension, which is that of musicality.

To say that his paintings sing is a trivial statement. It is more correct to say its chemistry and color recites a kind of musical score: his usage of color matches internal musical notes; they are symphonic and not aggressive; contemplative and not phenomenal; fun and not erotic.

In his paintings there are many splashes of color, as there are many musical notes, but our eye that browses his works "means" the music of his paintings or "records" the details down. A painting of Chomis in its diversity, its density and in his exuberance, delights the eye and gives pride to a dream-like quality which he introduces. It is complicity, shared between expression of the artist and the printing of the beholder, meets and exceeds one another.

Eric Chomis introduces luxuriance in his art: the profusion of details in his paintings. He brings to us a view of vast and detail-heavy places – because his painting is of narrative storytelling – yet the particulars themselves do not overwhelm or lead us astray. All these details are annotations in a course: pictorial and musical notations are all of his narrative painting.

In the footsteps of Tom Thumb and with the joy of Alice in Wonderland, Eric Chomis reveals to us many clues of stories which are scattered, collected, compiled and convoluted, guiding us to follow him in its land of innocence, wonder and joy of discovering new worlds. He invites us to share his passions and experiences, his practices and life through his paintings.

Eric Chomis by the alchemy of his palette, paints the music of his inner world by lush and detailed illustrations which take us on the road following the artist on his path.

Beyond the vibrant colors and their iridescence, he invites us to simplicity outside the hubbub of life; a more perspective and peaceful disposition in spite of the complicated windings, detours and mistakes – to eventually discover, invent and even find harmony in our dreams.



~ RENÉ QUAN YAN CHUI ~

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE UNIVERSE OF ARTS, NO. 60 -JUNE 2001



Sun This Way

81 x 100 cm

The market is already drowned in the overpowering sunlight. Human warmth descends on the houses, blistering them in happiness beyond reality. The small figures, transparent to the eye, are puppets which seem to have come alive under the sun. The magnetic golden star draws all to it. Food awaits food, and what life expects. The child lives in expectation, ready to devour. The child lives in hope that all promises will be fulfilled. Surprises lie in wait, ready to jump to and fro from past to present.



Biography

ERIC CHOMIS

Eric Chomis was born in Lyon (France) in 1965, where he now lives and works. He studied History of Art at Lyon University and at the School of Fine Art known as the “Beaux Arts,” but before long he returned to his own diagrammatic approach of conceiving art which he discovered when he was sixteen. He considers himself as a self-taught artist. Although his painting has been influenced by the Paris School of Thinking, it isn’t easy to label as his approach is often closer to that of the Singular Art Movement.

He was discovered in 1991 and his work has been regularly exhibited throughout France and Europe: Paris, Amsterdam, Belgium and Switzerland. He has participated in a number of exhibitions in particular “Comparaisons” at the Paris “Grand Palais”, and his work is shown in many small private and state galleries.

Eric Chomis’s paintings often portray imaginary landscapes, which are usually influenced by the streets of Lyon. His love for landscapes and architecture is perhaps the reason to which he covers his canvases with buildings and trees. Chomis describes his paintings as “the graphic link to reality, my reality, a moment of my life.” Thus, the colors that he uses in each of his paintings reflects the mood of his stories – he discreetly suggests that we seize the link between past and present, reality and experience, consciousness and unconsciousness, lightness and depth.







Sea Side Procession

100 x 81 cm

This pretty seaside town projects itself on the screen of fortune. The stage master calls out: "Camera!"
And everything comes to life.

The script of the film is called "Find your luck at the bottom of the big lake." The big lake corresponds to the dreams we all dream of, impossible, possible dreams. These are the dreams that recall the other world, the world of childhood, a world calling us back in time.



Word of Winter

162 x 130 cm

Behold a winter sky, thrusting itself upon us in strength, matter and muted color. The time to hibernate is here. Daydreams and hibernation combine to become one. This painting found its inspiration in Paris – set aside from anything beyond belief, where people wander and roam through unattainable boundaries in search of the secret way out. All is a child's perception of time and space. Time stops, meanders, gives way to a fairyland visible to only those eyes that really see.







Winter Oompah-pah... PAH

60 x 81 cm

It's a dull grayish-green winter day, but who cares? There's exuberance in the air. The roundabout twirls in time to the old-time French music hall oompah-pahs. Shrills and shrieks and childhood laughter mingle and ring out. Let's all head for childhood dreams.

Dream on, and on and on.



The Sun Makes its Sheep's Eyes

60 x 81 cm

The bank and the river stretch themselves like a child awakening from an afternoon nap.

The colors in this painting portray a happy serene atmosphere. The boats go up with the flow of the current in the same way as I attempt to relive the past. The countryside unreels and unreels, dependent, loyal countryside.





This Fair is a Farce

73 x 60 cm

The fair exists, a small paradise amidst all those who are going about their daily chores. It's our paradise; lost paradise. The choreographer jubilates in simple naivety. It's a child's painting, a child's fantasies and a fervent revelation.





Sunshine Between Shores, Beyond Even The Other

60 x 81 cm

The sun is in charge. It jumps out at us, lighting up the entire painting, dancing onto the river, and soaking it in red and orange with a multitude of pure paintbrush strokes. In the foreground, the audience, blinded by the stage-light, enters the fire. This is the fire of hell, the other side of my reality.



Explosion Jumbled Junk Lives

54 x 65 cm

These characters with their wide-eyed expressions, balls of paint scattered like free electrons. What euphoria this all is, what an elixir of youth! Even the circus ring almost escapes from the canvas. Here I am, five and a half years old.

Orange Afternoon Zest

81 x 60 cm

My scene is set in the timeless scenery remembered from childhood, the banks of the Seine, where everything seems to begin and nothing ends. These are days spent idling about, no tomorrow, and nothing really seems to matter. The tangerine sky diffuses over the landscape and allows it to take on its orange sherbet flavor. This painting is an ode to those afternoons away from danger and reality, laughing, and sharing our childlike pranks and dreams. Life, just a large cup of wistful laughter and joy!









Life Seen From Every Angle

61 x 50 cm

The hill allows the sea to surge forward from the corner of the canvas. There is an opposition between the people on the land and those on the sea. “Where are the boats going? And the horizon? What’s behind the horizon?” These are the questions a child asks himself as he contemplates on his own fears and the unknown world of adults. He’s not a sailor or a traveler. So how does he go about dealing with this exile?

It’s never easy.







Farewell to the Sun for Today

60 x 81 cm (shown on previous page)

The sun is in charge. It jumps out at us, lighting up the entire painting, dancing onto the river, and soaking it in red and orange with a multitude of pure paintbrush strokes. In the foreground, the audience, blinded by the stage-light, enters the fire. This is the fire of hell, the other side of my reality.





From Top to Bottom, The Water of Life

54 x 65 cm

These characters with their wide-eyed expressions, balls of paint scattered like free electrons. What euphoria this all is, what an elixir of youth! Even the circus ring almost escapes from the canvas. Here I am, five and a half years old.





Hours en Rose

61 x 46 cm

When I was a child, I lived beside the park de la Tête d'Or in Lyon – and every day we used to go to the zoo with my mother. I'll never forget the pink alleyways, the balloon-sellers, and all those incredible animals.

I was only two years-old, and I had Africa on my doorstep. I still find it hard to believe.









Pink Swinging Districts

46 x 61 cm

Paris in definite is with us: pink houses ready to take off for the farandole sway, as the trees, sticks of color, dress the square where anonymous men beckon for all to follow their stationary journey.



The Snow Practices its Arpeggios

54 x 65 cm

I'm dreaming of snow topped mountains, the red cable car, winter skies. I'm dreaming of skiing, tobogganing, eyes screwed up in delight as I take to the slopes and touch new freedom. Oh mountains, my dear mountains, not a day goes by without me thinking about you. And even if we part, our secret is that you and me, it's forever.





Wedding Bells on the Village Square

61 x 50 cm

This painting reflects a naivety which is far-removed from the crazy complicated world we live in. It's almost impossible to believe in an everlasting love and an all-encompassing God who sings promises of reality to the devil.

“Utopia or die”.





Café Lark

50 x 50 cm

As if by magic, the snow has transformed the slope. Colors and noise blend together in a muffled fashion, casting a strange soft atmosphere over the landscape. It's snow fall seen through the eyes of a child. The town, as it enrobes in its furry white coat, wakes gently. What poetry life brings with it! Just take a moment to look and savor, then stand back and once again cast an innocent eye.



Touch of Northerly Things

60 x 30 cm

I often trace my thoughts back to Amsterdam, and call to mind those mad hatter houses. Wonderland and first love is where I nostalgically set my scene in its bubble of red.



Inside Morning Mademoiselle

50 x 50 cm

A serene, quiet, protective atmosphere overlooks this painting. The character seems to be walking around in fancy dress a barely visible cat plays with the rays of the early morning sun. Outside winks in, promising and announcing a wonderful day ahead. The woman, spinster-like, content with her never-changing decor wavers immaturity. The inside decor symbolizes the secrets and richness of intimacy.



Happy-Go-Lucky Blue

50 x 50 cm

Blue is the color of sweetness and dreams. The sky runs down the alleyways, like blood flowing through the veins in my arms, my reverie. Blue is the ritornello of joy. And it's this ritornello, the swallow in spring, who with a flap of its wings whistles its stubborn tune.



Sun Breaks Through Sails

50 x 50 cm

Here is the sky, where the sun leaves its orange trace, path of tranquility. The clouds, bursting with light from this breathtaking day are overflowing, full, brimming. The child, content, wanders aimlessly through the landscape. White reflects the beauty like a silence suspended from a thread, linking us to a recurring and infinite spring.



Twitch Sky Twitch

46 x 55 cm

The clouds dance in the sky in rhythm, irregular. The earth seems to keep hold of them with a thread of clustered colored balloons. Traces of color link sky to the earth. The little people, animated puppets, a recurring theme in my painting, are also part of the dance. They invite us to join them as long as we leave behind in the cloakroom all our adult aspirations.





Mood Imperative

130 x 162 cm (shown on previous page)

Colors explode like fireworks. This painting evokes the fond memory of endless holidays – those of childhood joy. The sun draws the sherbet-like colors towards the bottom of the painting, culminating in a childlike scribble. The contrast between the upper half of the canvas with its intense matter, and the lower half where the grain is apparent, could be seen as portraying the opposing forces that exist between work and pleasure.



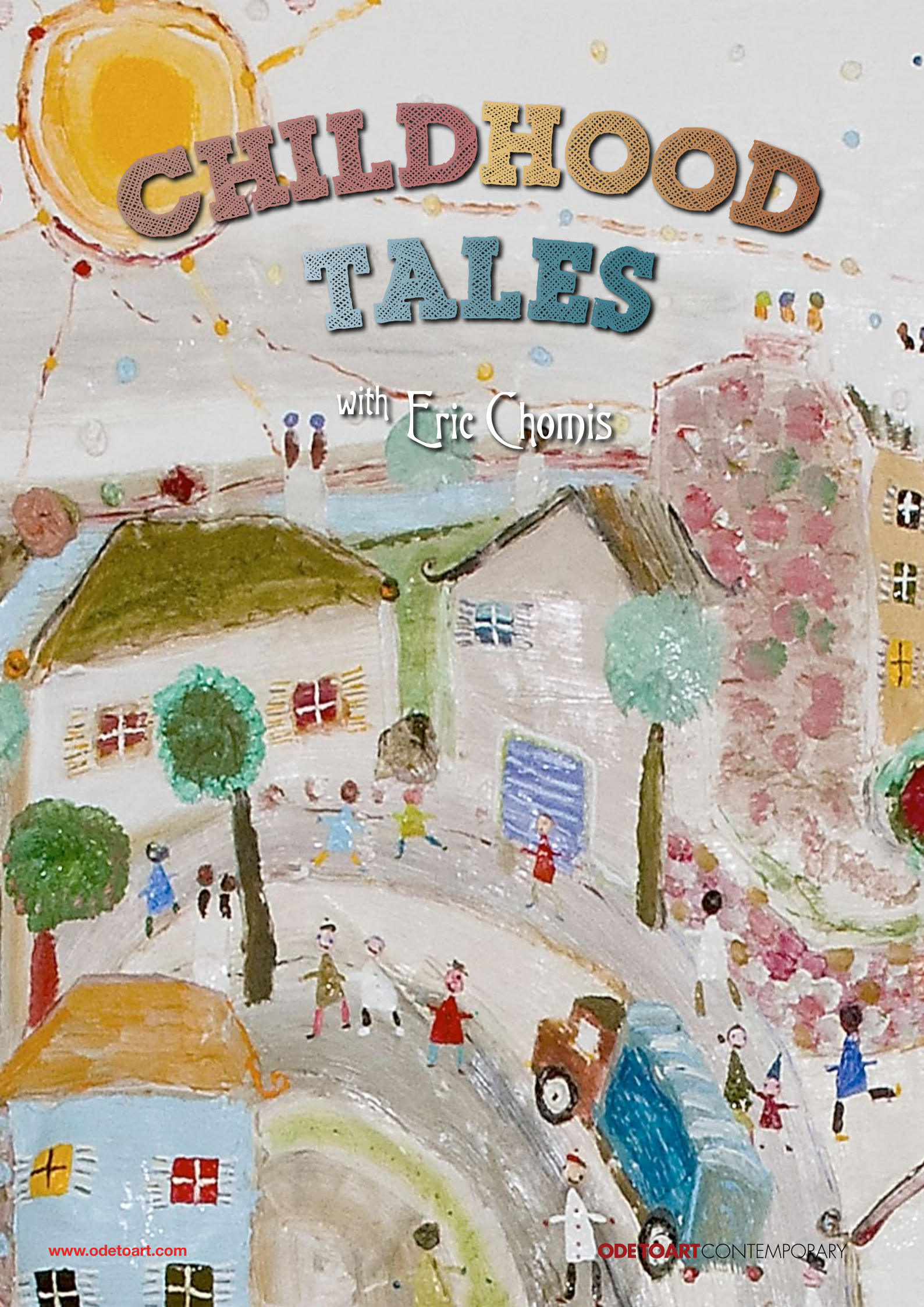
For Every Drop of Water Within

61 x 50 cm

When I paint, I paint the same banks I have walked over time and time again. They attract me, draw me to them. I watch out for changes in light. Like a fisherman I aim for a good catch. I'm after joy in my nets. In fact I have to try and understand how lost paradise can be redeemed. Then the child in me curls up, and sleeps until his heart is contented.







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