

**UPCOMING SHOW**

*Up to 10 works on show*  
Feb. 1 – Mar. 30, 2007  
Winston Wachter Gallery  
203 Dexter Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98109  
(206) 652-5855

• SHOW LOCATION SEATTLE, WA

**TONY SCHERMAN**

**American Art Collector**  
February 2007

Southern inspiration



**T**ony Scherman's ongoing series is titled *About 1865* and it is the artist's attempt to deconstruct the Civil War and some of the ideas behind it.

The series, which encompasses most of the new paintings for this exhibition at the Winston Wachter Gallery in Seattle, is more conceptual than objective, as paintings from the series include bowls of fruits, melting cakes, portraits of women and large, iconic images of Lincoln—all done in his signature encaustic style.

"I'm Canadian but I came to the Civil War through music, specifically my father's music," says Scherman. "It was during the 60s and we were living in London at the time and my father would always listen to R & B, the slide guitar, greasy kind, and I could never figure out where the pain in the music was coming from, because most of the people playing the music, like Johnny Winters, were white."

The inspiration for the music finally came to Scherman in 1998 when he paid a visit to the South.

"It really hit me like a baseball bat to the face," says Scherman. "Southern whites were destitute before the war and then after they got rubbed down so low that there was nothing left. And I believe that white blues comes out of that feeling after the Civil War and not of blue collar workers."

Scherman saw the effects of this on his visits throughout the South. And the remnants of these feelings are what inspires Scherman's *About 1865* work.

"Once I went to places like Louisiana and Alabama, I realized that the war's not over, the ground is still warm," says Scherman. "It's like what Wordsworth wrote about the French

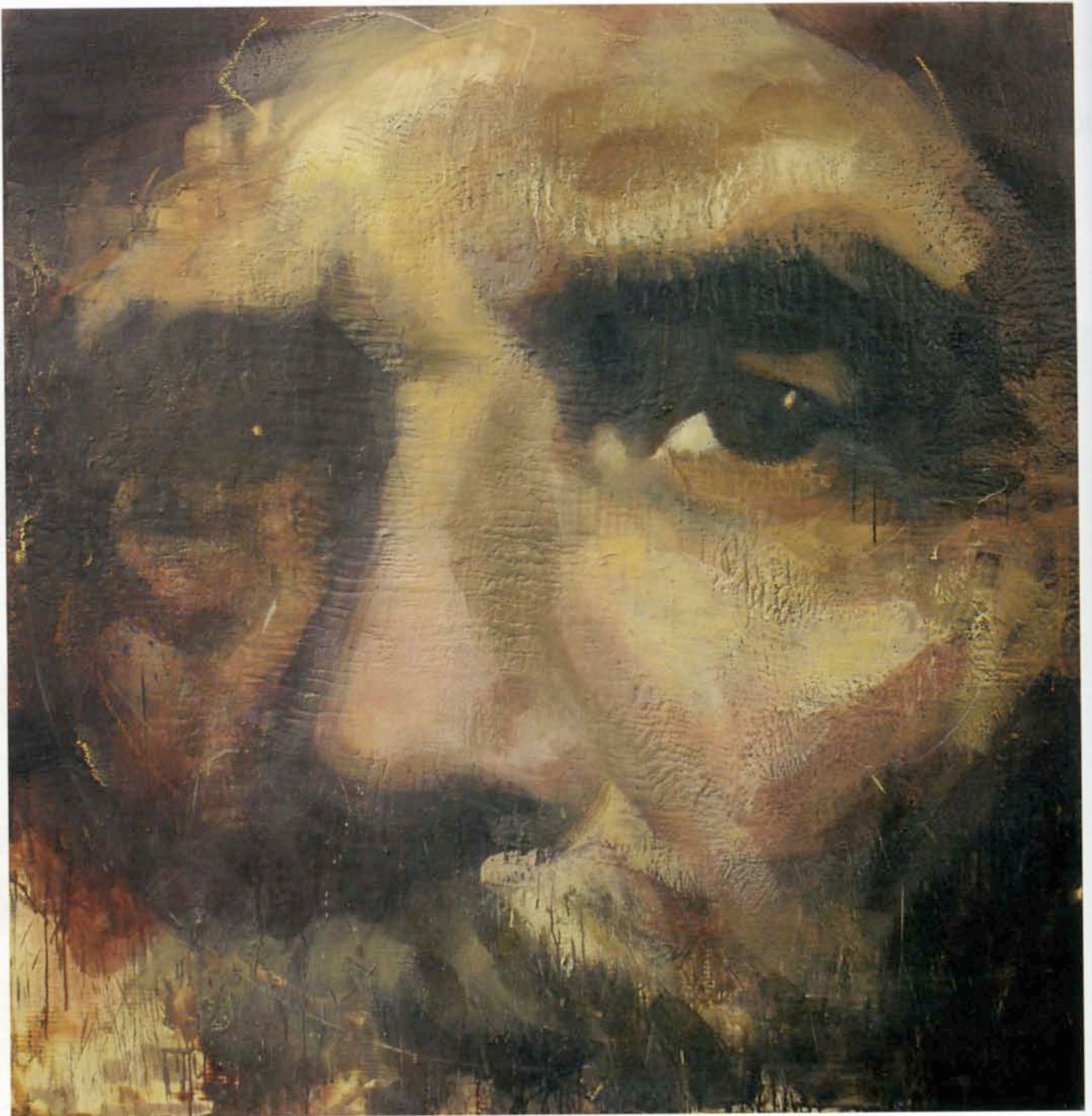


SAVANNAH: BETTER DAYS, ENCAUSTIC ON CANVAS, 48 x 48"



DEATH OF BUGS BUNNY, ENCAUSTIC ON CANVAS, 60 x 60"

◀ FRUIT, ENCAUSTIC ON CANVAS, 48 x 48"

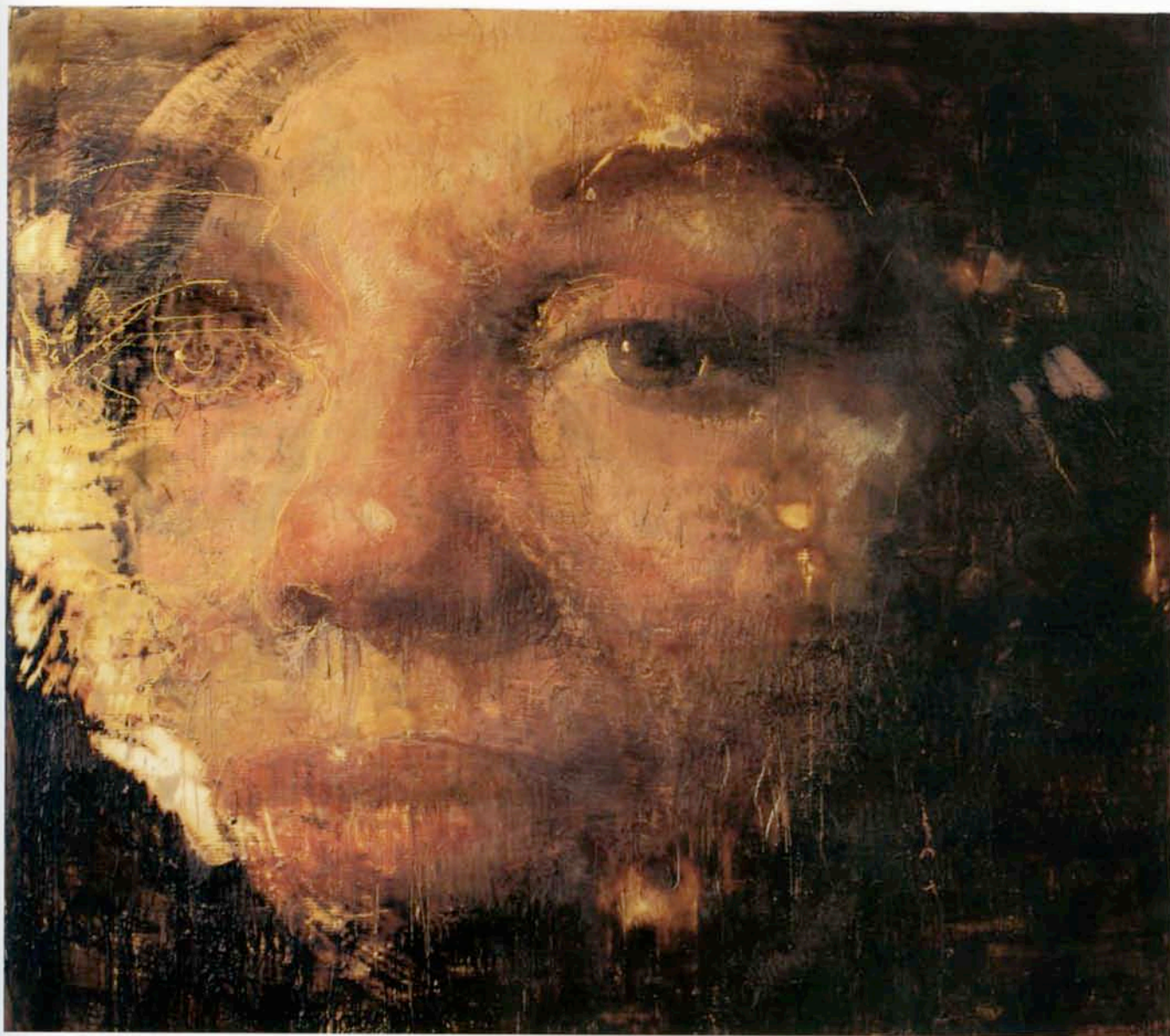


GENERAL BOB AT COLD HARBOR, ENCAUSTIC ON CANVAS, 60 X 60"

*The Gallery Says . . .*

"Tony's paintings are thematic and compelling—the physical intensity and presence of his work is impressive. Each painting can be appreciated for the rich surface textures, as well as for the acute historical narratives."

— Megan Des Jardins, Director, Winston Wachter Gallery



VIRGINIA AS LIBERTY, ENCAUSTIC ON CANVAS, 84 X 96"

Revolution and the scars still being there. The poverty of the South is palpable. But these aren't history lessons but rather my impressions of things."

While this new series has occupied Scherman for the last several years, it is only one of a number of ongoing styles that he paints in. For him, it is important that the field be wide open, no matter the style, the subject matter or the intellectual possibilities of each painting.

"I've always painted typologically, still life, landscape, whatever it takes," says Scherman. "As an artist, I've always felt like it is necessary to grant myself permission any day to paint anything I want. I've been kept alive by moving across different styles and subject

matter."

However, no matter the style, Scherman always paints encaustic work because of the opportunities that arise from using the wax and pigment.

"Nobody was really doing it when I started at the Royal College of Art in London," says Scherman. "And at the beginning when I was using beeswax, I just fell in love with it. And, it suited my interest in what I saw as a battle between surface and illusion in painting. It took me to a place where I would have never gone, back to the Roman use of encaustic and beyond."

Scherman also sees the process behind encaustic work as being able to comment on the painting medium itself.

"When you mix oil paint with wax,

the molecules oxidize," says Scherman. "And the history of painting is the history of oxidation. I get much more flexibility with the wax and if you make a mistake, you can just scrape it off and start fresh." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to



[www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)

### Price Range Indicator

Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.

	Small	Medium	Large
2006	\$16,000	\$35,000	\$100,000