



Jorge Santos Dinner Date, 2004, oil and acrylic on canvas, 48 x 48 inches

SPOTLIGHT

Jorge Santos

at Glass Garage Fine Art Gallery, Los Angeles

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"Jorge Santos is a maestro, a master of his own ceremonies, and a custodian of his own private twilight zone. With a technique to rival the masters, he invites the viewer into his deceptively simple dreamlike tableaux embracing themes profound, irreverent, outlandish, epic, tragic, and invariably ambiguous."

"The images draw the viewer to both look, then engage and finally connect. The works executed with the exquisite painterly detail seem to carry layers of meaning and have an ominous portent of there being more here than meets the eye, a bigger question, a challenge. Once the viewer connects to the image, he's hooked, hooked in the embrace of Santos' enigma and the master of ceremonies has you in his thrall. One is the richer for having experienced such a highly original, thoughtful, disturbing, bawdy, ironic, absurd,

and highly personal world. A world where we find a Rubenesque lady quite naked strapped down upon a train traveling on a track that will disappear in the horizon taking her where? To oblivion? To death? And the train — a brightly painted wooden toy train! In another image we see a young boy dressed only in swimming trunks, a glistening silver rocket strapped to his back in readiness for an eminent flight into space. But the boy is bent over closely inspecting what appears to be a wooden and rubber wheel from a toy car. The title tells all, "Landing Gear", an image that juxtaposes the impossible with wildly naïve optimism. Santos is Samuel Beckett, Eugene Inesco, Raymond Chandler, Tiny Tim and Rod Sterling made one. And that one is a magical artist standing shoulder to shoulder with the great surrealists."

Warwick Sims
Glass Garage Fine Art Gallery