

TORSO and FRACTALS

Exhibition

By Zoia Skoropadenko and Clem Chambers

24-28 of May 2011

Menier Gallery, Menier Chocolate Factory
51 Southwark Street, SE1 1RU, London, UK

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

After the success of the first TORSO and FRACTALS exhibition in Menier Gallery in February 2011 we were invited to have our next exhibition in London in the summer.

As we loved the Menier Gallery space, we have decided to have one more show there.

The exhibition will take place in Menier Gallery (Bankside), from 24 of May till 28 of May 2011. With the opening on Thursday 26 of May 2011

The exhibition will combine the TORSO project of Zoia Skoropadenko as a part of New Renaissance Movement and the FRACTALS series by Clem Chambers. The exhibition will be a mix of “Torso” pieces and the expressive bright abstract Fractal paintings.

NEW RENAISSANCE MOVEMENT

Take Attic art and ideas and recreate them in a new way or technique. That is what I do in my Torso project.

Using classical torsos as inspiration I re-create them using the painted flesh of octopuses, capturing the result with photography.

Not satisfied with what is going on in contemporary art and tired of decomposing garbage with long meaningless explanations masquerading as art, I decided to create something that would be intriguing yet accessible by reflecting the ancient Greek ideals of beauty and the search for its perfection.

PROJECT “TORSO” by Zoia

The series of “Torso” are the Impressionistic New Renaissance Art Pieces. Like artists from Renaissance times, I reach back to emulate the beauty of Attic art, to reconsider and recreate it in a modern way with a modern medium.

Using Monet as inspiration I capture the essence of the subject, rather than its details. The images were made softened and blurry to bring out the suggestion of detail, like the loose brush strokes of the master.

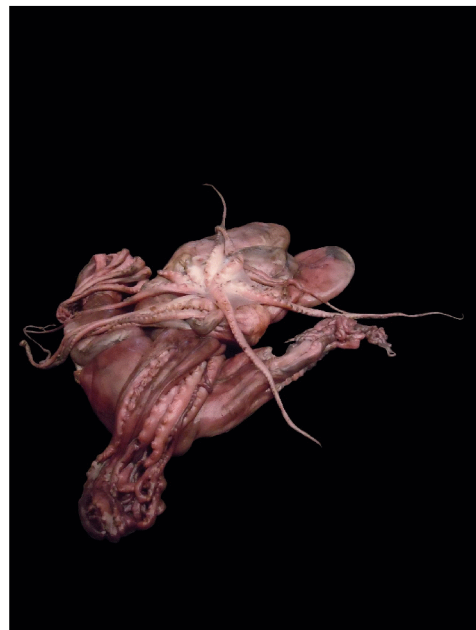
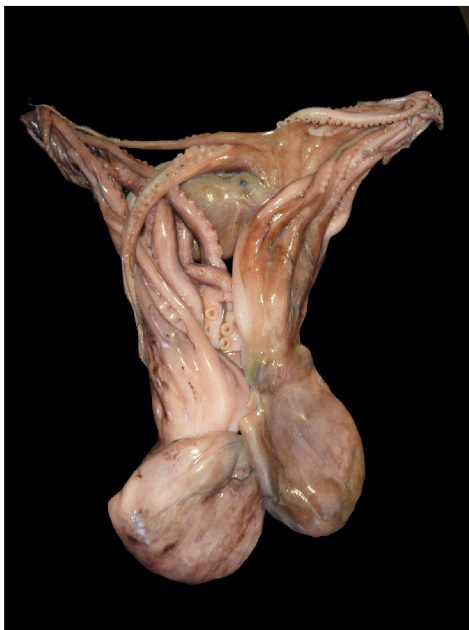
To see Torso at its best, step back from the image and gaze at the picture gently and let your mind flesh out the details of a beautiful torso.

PROJECT “FRACTALS” by Clem Chambers

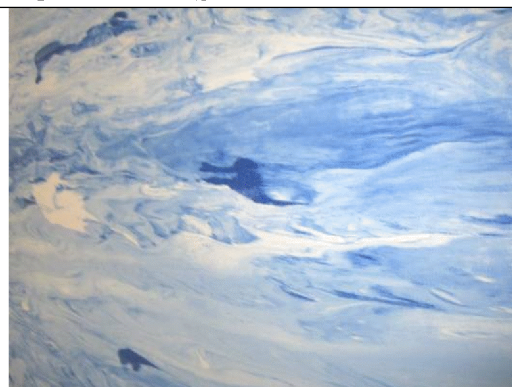
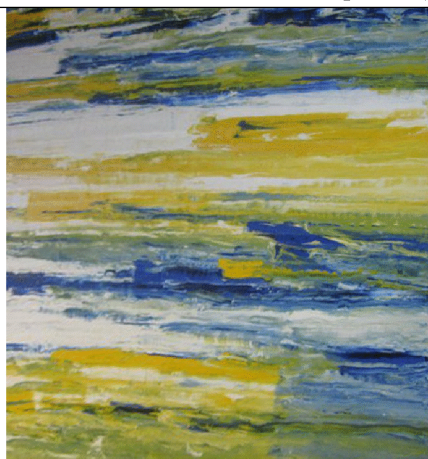
Clem Chambers, a successful Internet pioneer and financial guru, has always been fascinated by the art of mathematics. He set out to create a mathematical art project inspired by the underlying processes that create Fractals discovered by Professor Benoit Mandelbrot.

Mathematics is a very beautiful thing but cold and inaccessible to all but a handful of souls. Clem has produced a series of works that are recreated by applying the mathematical abstract principles of iteration and chaos to paint and canvas. Like the sea forms cliffs, like water and light interplay, his painting technique produces naturalistic forms because the way he paints reflects the way nature develops through cyclical processes.

TORSO by ZOIA



FRACTALS by CLEM CHAMBERS



« TORSO » by ZOIA

NEW RENAISSANCE EXHIBITION

MANUAL

What is “Torso” and how to see it?

The series of “Torso” are not photographs of octopus. It is series of “Torso”.

They are the Impressionistic New Renaissance Art Pieces.

Like artists from Old Renaissance times, I revive the beauty of Antic?? art, reconsider and recreate it in a modern way with a modern medium.

As I did not want my audience to see seafood on the images, I decided to follow my favourite Impressionist Monet: to capture the essence of the subject, rather than its details.

The images were made unsharp and blurred on purpose.

To see Torso you should take five paces back from the image, abstract yourself from details and to enjoy the beauty of torso.

HISTORY OF CREATION

Once, in one of those rare rainy days, when sky is grey and you appeared to be in time between author's emoluments which gave me no chance to buy a paper and paints to continue my artistic practice, I've got a thought.

What would artist do in such a case? Most likely he will use what is available around him.

At that particular moment the only useful and possible equipment I found was a photo-camera and a box with 5-6 octopus in my fridge I've got from local fishermen the other day.

I put the smelly box full of potential seafood and camera in front of me and sat in a deep thought.

I was not attracted to the octopus neither as to mollusc, nor as to Cephelopodas. I was not inspired from them neither as a still-life, nor a natural history piece.

However I realised that in front of me was a pile of “bricks” from which I could “build” anything I want

from a kennel to Coliseums.

Million ideas crowded in my head but there wasn't any clear or worthwhile. In such a case I usually going into my "imagerium" (my collection of images that impressed me, arosed my interest in or inspired me).

Raw product that I had on my desk was too beautiful to waste it for a kennel so I decided to build something more classic and beautiful.

And I chose the most beautiful from whole collection. Going through the images throughout of all art history I was not able to find anything more beautiful than human's body.

Torso.

No matter was it made in Australia 4000 years ago, or in Italy in time of Renaissance, or in ancient Greece or was modelled in the arms of Roden and Modigliani, there was nothing more beautiful than torso.

Both Men and Women.

Human torso is a bit different from octopus' body, but I decided to abstract away from the thought that I have basic seafood in front of me and imagine that it is clay from which I have to model a sculpture.

And so I did. I took my most favourite images of torso and tried to shape them by the use of octopus. Than I made photo. Than another. And another in different angle. The next morning I chose the best tries, developed them and apologized to my neighbours for the strange smell packed staircase of my house.

At the end this idea so allured me that I started to collect images just of torso from everywhere: I photographed the shivering old statues on the street, I cut the auction catalogues and magazines.

I freezed the octopus. And since then each time when I find 2-3 new images of torso I still get them out to create a new Torso.

« FRACTALS » by CLEM CHAMBERS

MANUAL

Mathematics is a very beautiful thing but cold and inaccessible to all but a handful of souls. Taking inspiration from the underlying processes of Fractuals discovered by Professor Benoit Mandelbrot, I have produced a series of painting applying these abstract principles to painting in oil. Like the sea forms cliffs, like water and light interplay, my painting technique Produces naturalistic forms because the way I paint reproduces how nature is formed. The late Professor Mandelbrot, one of the greatest mathematicians, who I counted as a personal friend, discovered this world, our world, which while physically solid is not actually solid in terms of straight lines and sides. While we might walk 10 meters across a lawn, but an ant must walk the same path only longer as he must climb up the crinkles and down cracks along the way. How long is a coastline when it bays have bays, which in turn have bays, into infinity? .

Oil and canvas are an especially compatible media for this work and produce the kind of beautiful images that fractals are famous for, although these fractal images are purely created by hand with none of the pixel cheating and printing shenanigans so common now in art. Art unknowingly has been trapped into these Cartesian dimensions, that is to say solid dimensions, even Picasso with cubism still only dealt in whole dimensions even though there were more than 3. This beauty is something I have been searching for in my work for my whole life. I refuse to paint ugly painting, the world has enough already. Yet to say I paint paintings is a bold statement, but the underlying mathematical beauty that is the basis of my work shines through. My paintings will not make you sad, will not leave you desolate and will not you lonelier. Their organic-ness, their lightness, is all a reflection of a universal principle that fits everything together . Therefore I feel privileged to be painting in fractal dimensions and must thank Benoit for inspiring me with his work to create mine .

ABOUT THIS EXHIBITION

When I've been invited to exhibit "Torso" in London, I tried to imagine how it will be.

When I put in my imagination all "Torso" pieces on a gallery wall I've got a feeling that something was missing.

Having a colourist nature as an artist I wanted to see my exhibition bright, light and colourful. However all my Torsos are mostly monochrome and so I've got a thought to spice it up with some colours.

That is how occurred the idea to mix "Torso" pieces with some light and colourful art. I told my idea to my fellow artist-friend Clem Chambers who is doing brilliant abstracts and that is how this exposition was created.

The exhibition will be a mix of "Torso" pieces and expressive bright abstract paintings.

Zoia Skoropadenko