

Up to 25 works June 2-July 5, 2012 Elliott Fouts Gallery 4749 J Street Sacramento, CA 95819 (916) 736-1429

Christopher Stott



Objects of the past

hristopher Stott finds vintage objects for his contemporary realist compositions by trolling antique shops or pulling from his personal collection.

"I have hundreds of books all over the place and I have to stop myself from buying more," admits Stott. "When I look at the title of books and start stacking them together they tell a narrative...or an idea. If you place the right books side by side, the titles alone are really interesting."

In Clear Thinking—the largest piece in the show at 42 by 32 inches—Stott stacked 69 books around a vintage teacher's chair. Executed in Stott's straightforward composition style, the painting is complex and simple at the same time, exposing up close the details and the different tones of the pages.

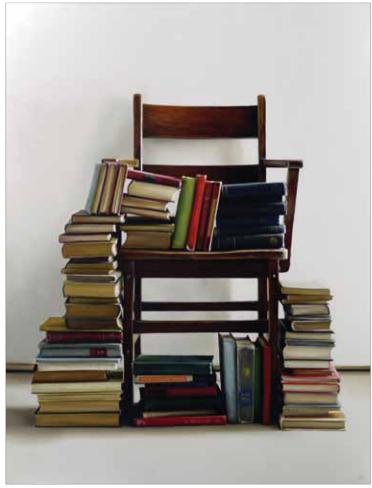
"I like the paradox, the juxtaposition of the simplicity and complexity co-existing. It's like life," remarks Stott, "On one hand you have a very simple story that we all experience, but on the other hand a closer inspection reveals a great amount of detail."

Stott will present up to 25 original paintings in his fourth consecutive solo show at Elliott Fouts Gallery, which opens June 2. In these new works the artist has focused more on the objects themselves, leaving out the obvious narratives or stories.

"I'm more interested in really taking the objects and, through the process of painting, having them transform," he explains. "I take mechanical tools—typewriters, clocks, phones, etc.—and give them a very organic treatment through painting."

The subjects are all slightly larger than life-size on the canvas, yet the strength of Stott's compositions is their simplicity. Those familiar with the artist's realist still lifes will notice more detail and more refinement as he makes strides in becoming more confident with paint handling.

"I hope that people gain an appreciation for realism and are able to spend time thinking about the paintings for more than a passing moment," says Stott. "Painting, to me, is about



CLEAR THINKING, OIL ON CANVAS, 42 X 32"

careful, slow consideration. Perhaps I want viewers to take a moment for slower, deeper consideration of the world around them."





Back To Back, oil on canvas, 24 x 30"



The Vanishing American, oil on canvas, 24 x 24 $\!\!^{"}$



Two Candle Stick Phones, oil on canvas, 24 x 24 $\!\!^{"}$