

CHRISTOPHER STOTT

Stories of Communication



Christopher Stott's paintings appear like photographs from a distance. Close up, they are composed of what he calls "minute but still painterly detail." He graduated with a BFA with High Honors from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and worked for a time in its photography department. He later chose to dedicate himself full time to painting.

While there is knowledge and skill required to produce a fine photograph, the hand of the artist can be seen in marks made to create a realist painting. "It's deliberate, slow, considered work," he admits. The finished paintings, portraits of objects designed by other artists, built by yet others and used by appreciative consumers, are not so much meant to elicit nostalgia, but to celebrate the objects for what they are, possessing history and interesting shapes. They become iconic, isolated against a white



- 1
Corona No. 3,
oil on canvas,
30 x 48"
- 2
If I Were Going,
oil on canvas,
36 x 36"
- 3
One,
oil on canvas,
28 x 22"
- 4
25 Cents,
oil on canvas,
40 x 30"
- 5
Filmo 8,
oil on canvas,
40 x 30"



3

background, set on shiny, rather than dusty shelves, tempting the viewer to admire the objects' beauty before the painter's skill.

Stott says, "I approach my work with a naturalistic styling and a strong sense of minimalism and order. I paint a wide variety of vintage and antique objects including appliances, books, clocks, typewriters, among other common instruments. As subjects, they have built-in narrative, they tell stories. And transforming them to painting creates an intimate, slower viewing experience. My hope is that in the paintings a viewer can find big-picture ideas and even personal histories and stories."

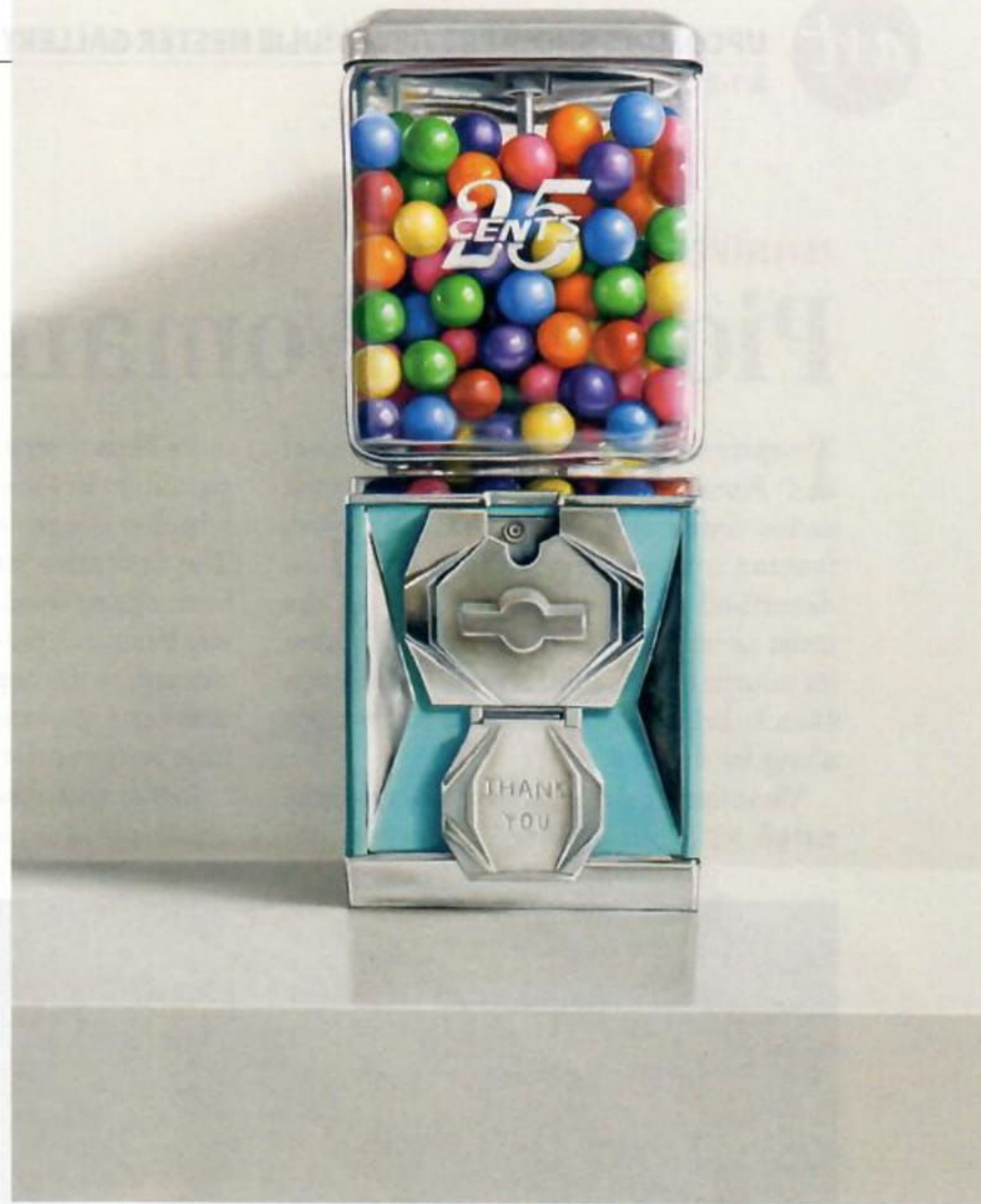
Stories of communication are implied in much of his work. It depicts typewriters, pencils, projectors and books. Often the books are anonymous, their spines turned away from the viewer.

A recent painting features a windup alarm clock atop a pile of books. The blue clock case is united visually with the books through their worn bindings in gradations of blue and green. The alarm is set to a civilized 7 o'clock. After surviving the heart-stopping clangor of the alarm, the sleeper can get back to the contents of the books, forgotten in sleep.

Although he has an ample supply of objects at hand and frequents a shop his wife discovered near their home in Vancouver, he sometimes returns to favorite objects. A Corona No.3 typewriter occurs in one of his recent paintings. He says, "I've used this in the past but it needed a bit more of a grand composition so I added some pencils and books."

An exhibition of his new work will be at George Billis Gallery in New York from March 26 through April 27. ●

George Billis Gallery 525 W. 26th Street, Ground Floor • New York, NY 10001
(212) 645-2621 • www.georgebillis.com



4



5