

B BEYOND

BBEYOND MAGAZINE : 2011/2



Tapestry by artist Danful Yang



EDITOR'S LETTER

While in Italy, I was struck, yet again, by the richness of life and how it can be experienced through travelling and coming into contact with a vast multitude of people from different cultural and social backgrounds.

I thought of the parochial and microscopic view of the world generally fostered by home politics and enforced by lack of affluence if not downright poverty.

At the other end of the scale, immense wealth can isolate people too.

Alain de Botton, who is featured in this magazine edition, has written a book, and dedicates a lot of his philosophical musings on the subject of class anxiety.

We feel that wealth has come to supersede class in the last couple of decades of unprecedented accumulation of fortunes.

The new, not-immensely-wealthy-but-cultivated class (what the French would refer to as *recherché*) is no longer defined by social belonging. Rather, it is defined by feeling comfortable in its own shoes. It shows style and elegance by not being aspirational either socially or financially.

It is not out there to conquer or colonise the world, nor does it have anything to prove to others or to itself.

It thinks nothing of wasting a bit of time (as opposed to working feverishly to attain mass domination or broker the next deal); it doesn't network – it entertains instead; it tries to perfect what it has rather than acquire more.

It has old-fashioned manners and values its privacy. It is, in fact, beyond class.

In this issue, as in all issues, we celebrate the B Beyond class.

Selections from the Permanent Collection
of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art

JUSTIN FORBES

PORTRAIT OF
AN ARTIST



Justin Forbes grew up in a house full of artists – his father was a photographer; his mother a dancer – which shaped his way of looking at the world: ‘with a frame around it’. He studied painting and design in New York and has been drawing all his life. Much of his work is inspired by New Orleans, a “great city to re-create yourself”, he says, where he went to teach art. He now lives in Denton, TX and has been painting commercially since 1989.

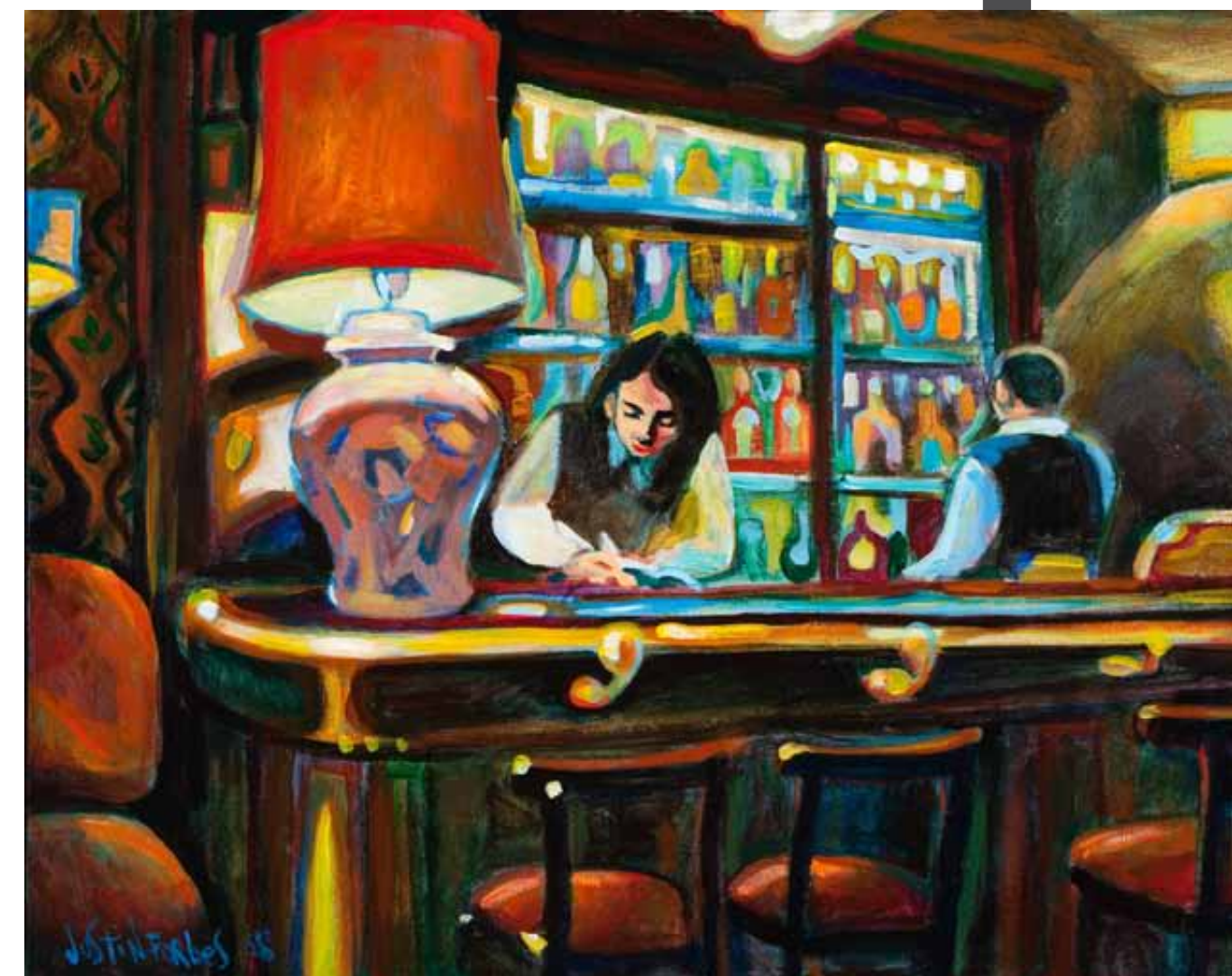
His definition of what art is today?
‘ANYTHING THAT THE ART CREATOR FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT.’

The process of making it is art in itself, he says – it doesn’t have to be something you hang on a wall. Art is an expression of a state of mind. Forbes’ state of mind is firmly rooted, it seems, in social commentary, vividly portrayed and sometimes lampooned through his works.



*“Happiness is a Warm Gun” 36” x 48”
oil/canvas 2011*

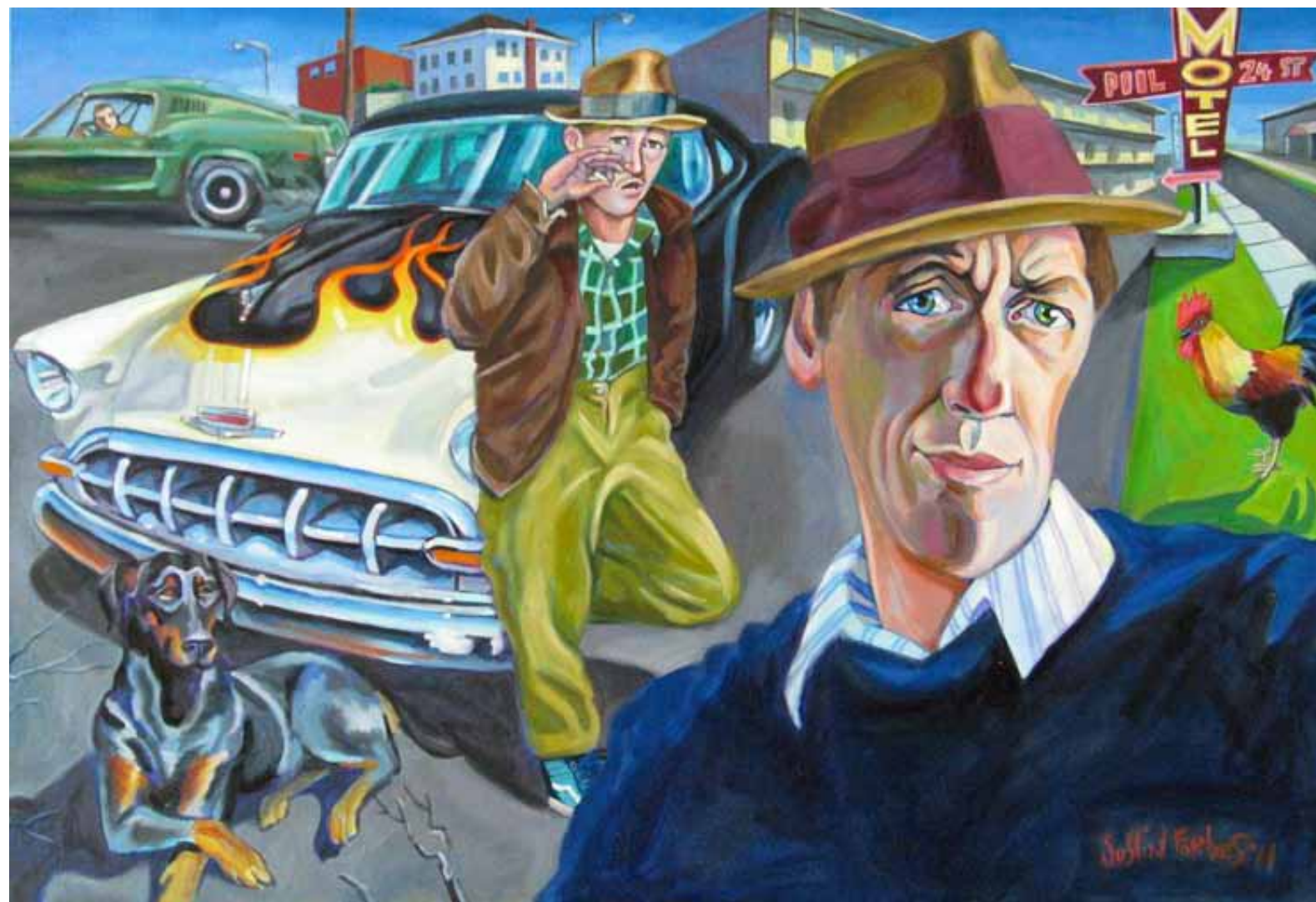
“Tending Bar” 18”x 24” oil/canvas 2008





"Before the Dance" 24" x 36" oil/canvas '09

"The Well Read Man" 16" x 20" oil/canvas '08



"McQueens' Blvd."
24"x36" oil/canvas 2010

"The Young and the Restless" 24"x36" oil/canvas 2011

"No Quarter" 36"x48"
oil/canvas 2010

"Self-portrait" at Train station

