

## 3D Cityscapes Collection



24 x 30 Olympic Plaza - oil on linen. Photos, these two pages, courtesy of Webster Galleries.



30 x 48 The Past is Back - oil on linen

[Réal Fournier's] larger-than-life paintings are sought around the world, yet he chooses to make Calgary home.

Réal Fournier's vision oscillates between two worlds: one is found in reality, the other is a blend of intuition and imagination. As an artist, there are few things Fournier is never without: a pair of 3D glasses, a bicycle and small sketchbook tucked into his pocket.

His larger-than-life paintings are sought around the world, yet Fournier chooses to make Calgary home. Last year, while working on a series of hockey portraits, Fournier had a vision and it resulted in a collection of paintings that are unmistakably "Calgary."

Twenty years ago, Fournier captured Calgary's homeless people through a series of paintings – feeling mythical, yet steeped in real people and their lives. The paintings came to life through his "Eyes Closed Sketch" method – a method that draws on pure imagination.

Today, Fournier has returned to the city's core to capture 20 years of evolution. He has discovered a new layer of curves, colours and citizens – amidst the steel, glass and concrete. Fournier captures the details that many people miss.

This time, his eyes are wide open. Much like the city, Fournier's style has also evolved and all of his cityscapes are painted in 3D. But his style is still whimsical – even magical ... it is his signature.

Young and old move about in the foreground while highrise towers soften and sway in the sunlight.



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48 x 30 Dancing on the ice - oil on linen

Fournier captures a movement that is youthful and vibrant. Animals blend into the layers with exacting precision – it's only when you 'dig deeper' the depths start to surface.

"Justice is served at city hall yet there are horses running free in front of the building," observes Fournier. "Someone plays music on a street corner, your eye catches an outdoor sculpture and there is activity all around – it all represents the city – and I want to be a part of the journey," he continues.

"Seeing the city in 3D reveals an inner world ... a new world," he notes. "It's much harder to paint a city in 3D because you have to work with an existing environment. To paint authentic colours, you have to manipulate the colours – making them recede and advance – depending on the objects and position," he says.

From the Centre Street Bridge to Olympic Plaza, Réal Fournier has created a new generation of images – preserving both the young and the old landmarks.

Fournier's collection of 3D cityscapes are on display at Webster Galleries during the month of March. **BIC**



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