



Paul Mahder Gallery
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Press Release

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For Immediate Release:

**SAN FRANCISCO PREMIERE EXHIBITION
"VISIONS"
NEW PAINTINGS BY YISRAEL FELDSOTT**

The Paul Mahder Gallery presents the San Francisco premiere of a new series of paintings, "Visions" by Yisrael Feldsott. Reception will be held on Thursday, August 21 from 6 – 9pm. Conversations with the artist from 6 – 7pm. This exhibit will be on display through October 5.

After many shows in the 1970s, being the youngest artist to have several group exhibits at San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art, and the first student to receive a Master of Fine Arts from California College of Arts and Crafts (without having an undergraduate degree), Yisrael Feldsott was an art prodigy on the fast track to success. But success, he quickly learned, didn't come without its problems of artistic and personal restrictions from galleries, museums and art dealers.

Yisrael Feldsott became less interested in commercial success and felt compelled to involve himself in the rich yet endangered ecologies and cultures of Central and South America. There he continued painting, founded an ecological restoration project, and studied with indigenous people for over 20 years. He learned to become a journeyer, student of traditional medicine, teacher, healer and most of all a storyteller.

When a museum in Ecuador offered him a retrospective in 2002, Feldsott reawakened to the importance of showing his work "to interact with my culture, create discourse and dialogue, and reach some more peaceful way to live."

His travels have shaped his expression. Feldsott borrows motifs from indigenous art, drawing animals, plant life, and humans in a two-dimensional plane with prominent line and high-contrast colors in a symbolic vocabulary recalling cave paintings. He depicts humans in our natural state: naked, with obvious body parts. Whether using panel, canvas, or paper as a base, Feldsott loads his works with multiple layers of mixed media, including acrylic paint, metallic substances, and occasionally fibers or shredded paper for a sculptural quality.

Feldsott offers visions of the worlds he visited and prophetic visions of the world we live in today. Intimate with the spirit world in a way that gives new meaning to the word visionary, Feldsott's paintings are brilliantly seductive dialogues filled with mystery, shared collective memory and archetypes.

These works do not depict typical scenes nor do they use realism to depict what one might see in the lush rainforests of Central or South America. Instead, bold shapes, dazzling colors and lines of heroic energy transport the viewer deeper into the spiritual realms of these places and beings.

These paintings have a life of their own providing a powerful, timely prophetic voice.

This exhibit may be enjoyed during our regular gallery hours of 10am – 7pm Monday through Saturday and Sunday, 1-5pm.

For more information, please contact Paul Mahder, Director, (415) 474-7707 or paul@paulmahdergallery.com, www.paulmahdergallery.com

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Catalog, photographs, and jpeg digital images are available.



Yisrael Feldsott, "Untitled/Bird", 32" x 40", mixed media, 2008



Yisrael Feldsott, "Untitled/Plane" 40" x 32" mixed media 2008



Yisrael Feldsott, "Untitled/Wolves", 32" x 40", mixed media, 2008