

JASON MONTINOLA

# Infamous



artesan  
GALLERY + STUDIO

# *Infamous*

Jason Montinola

Opens 12th December 2013



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*Infamous*  
Jason Montinola

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## Foreword

*We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.*  
– Plato

There is something about the year-end that sends the collective consciousness into a contemplative and reflective frame of mind. It seems that time just passes faster each year. Our professional and personal lives grow more frenzied and entwined through social media, and our inability to refuse electronic devices as our modern appendages.

Tying in with that sentiment of conscious deliberation, Artesan Gallery + Studio is delighted to present an exhibition of works entitled *Infamous* by Jason Montinola. Visually captivating, and confrontational, Montinola's latest works provides us with a reprieve to re-evaluate archetypal characters who may have touched our subliminal thoughts.

I often think our perception and intuition needs to be focused and sharpened, as sixth sense practices are what cyberspace neglects to teach us. The artist uses his acute skill to magnify these encounters to a much wider time frame displaying notions of narrative, media control, and the power of imagery. Somewhat intertwined, it compels us to re-evaluate what we know, and more importantly, what we think we know. We go through the numerous characters we come across at one point in our lives, in current news, or events, or even just people we meet down the street. They have all played a role and some have earned a kind of notoriety to uplift, or confound our private lives.

On behalf of all who have worked hard to present you our 2013 roster of exhibitions, here's wishing you all plenty of interesting and exciting encounters – people who will bring you all good fortune and happiness in the New Year. Have a blessed one.

**Roberta Dans**  
Founder/Director  
Artesan Gallery + Studio



# Infamous

A  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
20.32 x 20.32 cm,  
or 8 x 8 in  
2013

B  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
20.32 x 20.32 cm,  
or 8 x 8 in  
2013

C  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
20.32 x 20.32 cm,  
or 8 x 8 in  
2013



*Number 20: Dahlia*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
76.20 x 60.96 cm,  
or 30 x 24 in  
2013



*Candelaria*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
152.40 x 122 cm,  
or 60 x 48 in  
2013

Visions in the mind congregate by happenstance from the mental void; they assemble like a thick fog descending upon the mountains; silent, mysterious, unknown and most peculiarly, ephemeral-like. One moment lucid and tangible; within seconds a mere shadow. They uncloak themselves to the viewer, the dreamer, the thinker, not too clearly, yet briefly tangible. Before it can be fully grasped, it dissipates into the void from whence it sprung, like a firefly darting back into the darkness once again.



*White*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
27.94 x 35.56 cm,  
or 11 x 14 in  
2013



*Harbinger*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
152.40 x 122 cm,  
or 60 x 48 in  
2013

Such visions are mesmerizing as they are magnetic, drawing the spectator near, yet keeping him at a distant. The observer is spellbound. Touched as he is by the dream, everything he communicates is only a fragment of that Vision, intertwined with his own deliberate mark. He awaits the day the revelation will express his own story – true and existent, and manifested through his own hands. Till then, he is biding his time with his own fragmented compositions, from which, spring forth a multitude of characters.

In *Infamous*, Jason Montinola inflicts notoriety onto his new suite of painted personages. The characters are derived and twisted from the original Vision; and like offsprings, mimic their parents who are conferred with the same infamy. These characters are merely a segment, precast against their true nature, and the painter's visualization. They are often masked, in a premeditated and deliberate act to conceal their own identities; grounded in a picturesque setting that adds to their facade. Despite such clandestineness, their stories reach forth and ring true to anyone who considers them. For the artist, Jason Montinola, utterances are pointless; for our eyes conjure a revelation, a visual philology of its own right...

– Bree Jonson



*Number 41: The Collector*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
76.20 x 60.96 cm,  
or 30 x 24 in  
2013



*Refuge*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
25.4 x 20.32 cm,  
or 8 x 10 in  
2013



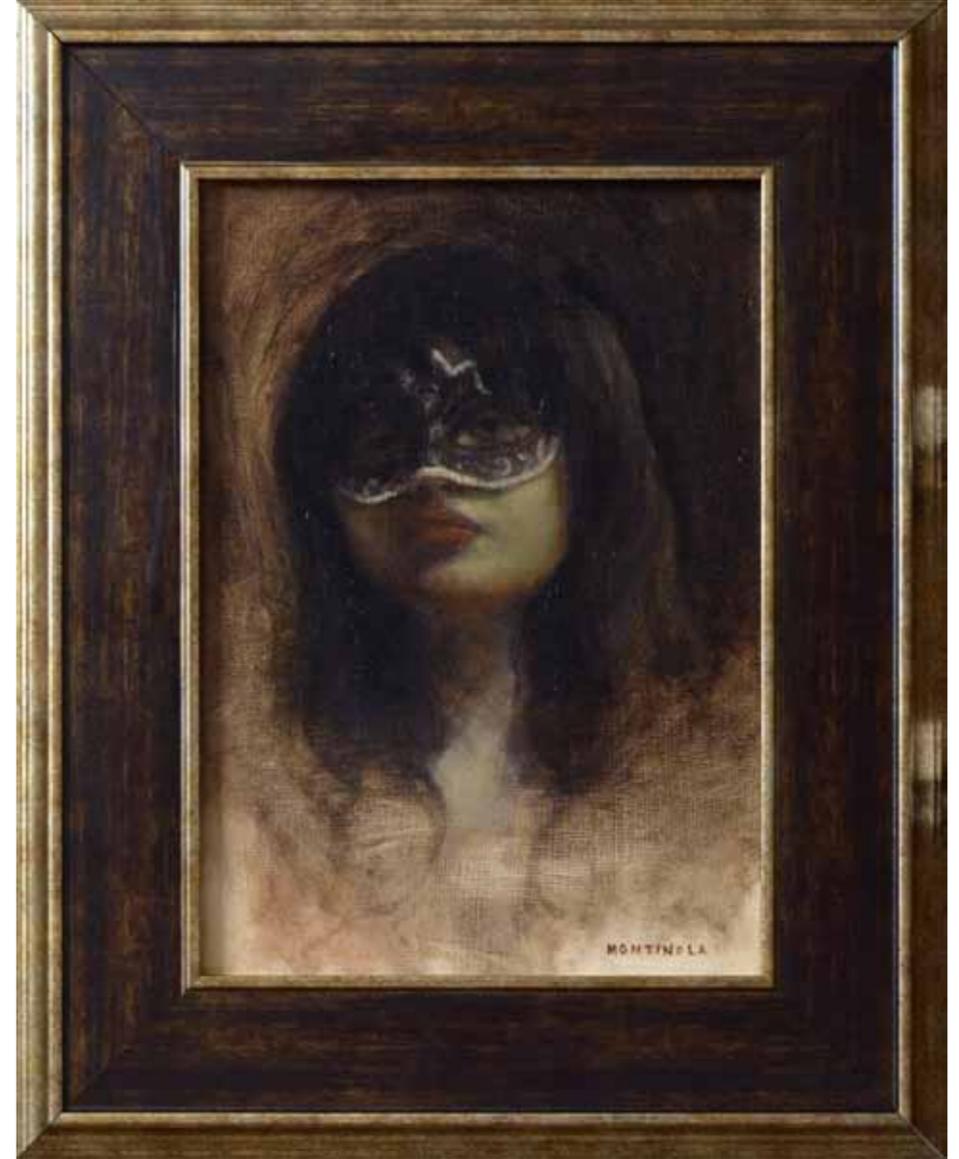
*Uncloak*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
25.4 x 20.32 cm,  
or 10 x 8 in  
2013



*Skull Ring and Candle*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
25.40 x 35.56 cm,  
or 10 x 14 in  
2013



*Number 50: Infamous*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
76.20 x 60.96 cm,  
or 30 x 24 in  
2013



*XYZ*  
Jason Montinola  
Oil on Canvas  
35.56 x 25.40 cm,  
or 14 x 10 in  
2013

## About the Artist:

Jason Montinola (b. 1979, Philippines) obtained his Bachelor of Science, majoring in Art Education from the Technological University of the Philippines in 2003.

As a child, he consumed encyclopedias filled with paintings of the past. The images he saw pervaded his unconscious mind, merging with his material surroundings and in the process molded his unique visual language. Montinola, breathes new life to these visions of old by infusing them with a thoroughly modern sensibility, through the characters he creates.

Recent solo exhibitions include Theatre of Absurdities, OUR Art Projects, MIA Art Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2013; Sinister, West Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines, 2012; Here Lies the Painter, West Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines, 2011; Black Carnival, Big & Small Art Gallery, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, 2010 and The Upper Room, Tala Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines, 2009.

He has also participated in numerous group exhibitions such as Anomalies, Copro Nason Gallery, Santa Monica, California, USA, 2012; Painting the Sublime, Manila Contemporary, Makati City, Philippines, 2012; Taetrum et Dulce: Lux in Tenebris, Distinction Gallery, Escondido, California, USA, 2012; Taboo, Last Rites Gallery, New York City, USA, 2012; Secret Rooms & Hidden Motives, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2012; Enigmatic Fantasies, Altro Mondo, Makati City, Philippines, 2011 and Boycotter of Beauty and the Theoretical Steroid Defiled Modernist Chicken, West Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines, 2011.

## Acknowledgements:

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