ENTERTAL MENT BETS

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EDITED BY CHRIS CLAYTON

$\frac{2}{3} - \frac{3}{12}$ Hot Wax

Before releasing a painting for exhibition, Toronto-born artist TONY SCHERMAN stores the work in the hull of a damp, wooden boat for five years, walks it through a windstorm, freezes it in an ice cave, scrapes it on a cracked sidewalk and finally rubs it smooth using river stones and has it licked by a Lab puppy. OK, we're lying. But Scherman's works do look like they've been through a rigorous, purposeful weathering process. To achieve this worn look, he employs an ancient encaustic technique, which involves mixing pigments and oil paints with hot wax and applying the mixture directly onto paper or canvas. Thus, Scherman's subjects—celebs, historical and mythological figures, classic still-life fruit bowls and wildlife—often appear to toe the line between vitality and decay, joy and melancholy. Such contrasts make Scherman's work among modern art's most challenging and enigmatic. Hours vary, Free. Winston Wachter Fine Art, 203 Dexter Ave. N; 206.652.5855; winstonwachter.com.

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