

NICK CHLEBNIKOWSKI



YOU ARE  
INVITED TO  
MY PARTY

7TH NOVEMBER – 2ND DECEMBER 2007

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# YOU ARE INVITED TO MY PARTY! - AN EXPLANATION

The party paintings seem at first to be a total departure from the fractal paintings that I have been developing since 2002. The series was started in 2007, as a frivolous exercise aimed at counter balancing the deeply religious and philosophical paintings of the past five years. The theme started out as Bacchus – all sex and rock'n'roll, but as the paintings evolved I noticed that subconsciously I was still painting philosophical pictures but using a different vocabulary in doing so. However, the more I got into the painting I noticed again that I was repeating many of the same characters from painting to painting, again I questioned the rationale for this and wondered what it was in my subconscious mind that was creating these patterns of repetitive forms. The fun and frolic of the animals, hybrid creatures and strange recurring plants was another expression of fractals, this time it was based around social fractal systems that I had observed in real life situations. Fractal movements and fractal behaviour patterns can be likened to neural branch networks. Social groups with strong bonds have a very strong network of interconnections which are difficult to fracture, whilst social groups whose bonds are loosely held together come apart easily. What I was in fact exploring, initially unwittingly, was strong and weak human behavioural patterns and their ability to hold together or break up.

These strange animations are repeated in different environments, but they all still behave in the same way, the basic instincts of the creatures stay the same. The gorilla does not lose his gorillaness when moved from jungle to the outskirts of Constantinople, he is still a gorilla and would remain as such. He might wander from one hybrid form to another to seek appropriate change but to no advance. He tries to mate with other creatures, but only transfers his aggressive gene pool onto a new hybrid form. The genetic engineering fails him.

The Party Animals continue to play, with no apparent regard for the consequences of hard partying. There is a belief that the party will last forever, and that there are no or few moral or ethical consequences of the party roaring into the future, to the fullest erotic and exotic extent.

In the process of irresponsible partying the Party Animals cause changes to their ecosystems (the shit accumulates, when the shit collector also becomes a party animal). New plants and hybrids that evolve have their own agenda which is to be revealed over time. For now they just appear to be quaint creatures.

Some viewers will recognise themselves in the paintings, and they are probably right in doing so, for many of my friends and acquaintances have formed the inspiration for these characters. Friends and foes are included, the chubby form of Bacchus is easily recognised, although sometimes his details have been exaggerated for ego purposes.

Many of the creatures have been lifted from Breugel and Bosch, with a fair lift taken from the Luttrell Psalter. Other creatures are my own invention. I have also incorporated contemporary symbols to emphasise that human nature throughout history has not changed, it is only the costumes and scenery that have changed. A frightening observation. Hire the classic Film 'Le Bal' to get another version of the interpretation of events over time.

The lady riding the sheep backwards needs some explanation. She is a distinguished senior citizen farmer from the Western District of Victoria. Mrs Cecily Cornish runs a large farm, mostly by herself. Her daughter Edwina, described an adventure that her mother had whilst attending to a large sheep. Straddled backwards over the sheep, examining its rear end, the sheep suddenly took fright and charged off with Mrs Cornish riding bareback backwards, for a ride around the farm. The image was beyond invention and became an important symbol of the present.

The absurd situation that she found herself in reflects today's global folly. For me Mrs Cornish riding the sheep backwards has become the 'accidental' symbol of our times. Charging forward with 'questionable progress' but not being aware of where as a human race we are headed. We seem to be happy riding the sheep backwards, remaining oblivious of the fact that the ride will be short and painful.

Collectively, the Party Animals of the 21st Century have to find a quick and permanent solution for the impending big hangover. Welcome to My Party!

Nick Chlebnikowski , Melbourne  
31st October 2007

### 1. FLORENCE IS A BEAUTIFUL CITY

*Florence is a beautiful city, created by the forebears of the Party Animals, who have assembled outside the city walls. The city has a great past, the centre of the art scene and religion, but who cares, it's of no relevance to the Party Animals, they do not want to know about the past. Its party time – lets go at maximum speed.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$7000**

### 2. DUSK FALLS ON FLORENCE, WHILST THE CROWDS GATHER

*Dusk falls on Florence, whilst the crowds gather at the gates. The Gorilla brings along a new conquest, having promised her the time of her life. The bikie gang begins to arrive, friendly at first, but promise to deliver Bacchus and the Party Animals a night to remember.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$7000**

### 3. GUESTS GATHER IN CONSTANTINOPLE

*Guests gather in Constantinople, arriving by land, sea and air. Bacchus parades on a beetle, and the Cathedral gargoyles come to life. Nobody pays attention to the Lady on the sheep, except the Chimp who considers the idea of genetic mutation. Prosperity is evident throughout the countryside. The party rocks on.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$7000**

### 4. THE WORD HAS GOT OUT AND THE JIM BEAM CALENDER GIRLS WANNA HAVE FUN

*The word has got out that the Jim Beam Calender Girls wanna have fun. Their buxom American bodies turn heads in lustful admiration. In the background, the twin towers burn and sewerage from industry continues to pollute the party grounds. Pass up another Jimmy!*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$6000**

### 5. BACCHUS STUMBLES IN ON A DONKEY

*Bacchus stumbles in on a donkey, assisted by two drunkards. The party is in full swing, and everybody is having fun, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse ride into the party, but nobody notices.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$6000**

### 6. THANKS, JESUS THEY SAY, AND CONTINUE TO PARTY

*Thanks, Jesus they say, and continue to Party. Bacchus convinces all the Party Animals to let go their inhibitions and join in. The Chimp eyes off the cockatoos. The twin girls want to break out. Jesus is hanging on a cross in a nearby Cathedral – 'He died for our sins' they say. Thanks Jesus for coming to the party!*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$6000**

### 7. THE PARTY ANIMALS EMBRACE THE CONCEPT OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

*The Party Animals embrace the concept of individual freedom, as their absolute right. Anything goes with anything. Foetuses and dead babies are savoured by ravens and exotic birds, Bacchus remains totally intoxicated. Cities burn. Nobody observes the changes – the Party Animals are all having a good time.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$6000**

### 8. THE PARTY IS IN FULL SWING

*The party is in full swing, Bacchus has got everyone involved and nobody has a care for tomorrow, for it is the freedom of now, today that matters. Self gratification at all costs. The Lady riding the sheep backwards flashes past – she is the symbol of impending tragedy, but who cares – when you're having so much fun.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$6000**

### 9. THE MONKEYS MESMERIZE THE PARTY ANIMALS

*The monkeys mesmerize the Party Animals with their clever aerobatics, swinging all night, from tree to tree. Some hybrid creatures strive to engage young maidens with flattery and idle chatter. The Maidens of Misfortune pipe hypnotic tunes and all the Party Animals are entranced by the wild nymphs. Life is for living they cry, it's for the now. The Party Animals are blind to the changing landscape, and do not recognise the strange life forms along the way.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$6000**

### 10. BACCHUS CAN'T HELP HIMSELF

*Bacchus can't help himself, he's been out on the town again and rides past blind drunk. His new found mates assume that everything will be alright. Nobody notices anything – the churches are empty, the congregation is partying too.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$6000**

### 11. THE ART OF DECEPTION IS WELL PRACTICED

*The art of deception is well practiced by Bacchus and he promises that everyone will have a wild experience. The Party Animals are seduced by the flute playing of the Maids of Misfortune, and dance the night away, being slowly led down a garden path into a carnivorous jungle. The Flesh eating plants thrive on their new diet. It's too late for the Party Animals – they are indeed having a wild experience.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$7000**

### 12. THE YELLOW PASSIONFRUIT FLOWER, HERALDS A NEW DAY

*The Yellow passionfruit flower, heralds a new day, but yesterday's hangover persists. The Party Animals become vulnerable to the hybrid creatures, who are the results of past generations of parties. Bacchus is preoccupied with seducing the Present Maiden, whilst the Future Maiden, a young girl, awaits her turn. The carnivorous plants quietly capture the frolicking Party Animals.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$7000**

### 13. THE GORILLA FINDS THE HYBRID FOREST

*The Gorilla finds the hybrid forest, as Bacchus rides on the back of the beetle. He waves his glass of wine about, offering a great time for all, but the humans are long gone and only the hybrids are left, living in the depths of the forest. The hybrids are wary of Bacchus as they have witnessed the demise of the humans. The Gorilla finds a new but unwilling mate.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$7000**

### 14. THE PARADE PASSES THROUGH SUBURBIA

*The Parade passes through suburbia, with the Maidens of Misfortune continuing to play on. Pollution spills out into the water, some Party Animals die quickly, whilst others wither slowly. Nobody notices – its just part of life's cycle. The Lady on the sheep heralds impending danger. Nobody is listening.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$6000**

### 15. THE PARTY ANIMALS MOVE DOWN TO THE COASTLINE

*The Party Animals move down to the coastline. Bacchus has found himself a large turtle which replaces his tired donkey. The twin sisters keenly anticipate an evening of fun and frolic. The sea creatures join in the party, but lying unnoticed in a dark corner of the water is a hybrid awaiting his turn. He will feed on them all.*

**Oil on Board 800x1600mm \$6000**

**Digital prints on canvas and archival paper printed with archival inks are available for all paintings.**

**800x1600 digital print on canvas Limited Edition \$2,000**

**Paintings 14 and 15 not exhibited due to limitation of gallery space. Images available for inspection.**

**SPECIAL THANKS:** Alexander and Mila Grigoriev – Blacksphere Gallery, Cecily Cornish, Michael Silver – Photonet, Fitzroy Artstretchers, Nicks Wine Merchants – Vintage Direct [HYPERLINK "http://www.nicks.com.au" www.nicks.com.au](http://www.nicks.com.au), Simon and Alex Chlebnikowski for opening night wine, Graphic and Web Design, Yuri Chlebnikowski, Framing – Jennifer Mackowiak, Digital Printing – Bernard Newsome, Special Advice – Mary Newsome, Irene Korneiko, Victor and Andrei Chlebnikowski, Hadyn Black, J-Studios (North Fitzroy Artist Community), Giorgio's Restaurant, Café Arabica, and especially Ann Chlebnikowski, who continues to put up with a house full of paintings.