



TRENTON DOYLE HANCOCK

From a Legend to a Choir, 2009

Vinyl print; approximately 40 by 98'
Cowboys Stadium, Arlington, TX

Trenton Doyle Hancock's dense work stops viewers in their tracks. Its screaming colors and riotous energy are an eyeful and not for the fainthearted. But what happens when one spends a few moments with Hancock's crazy quilt of an image is hardly indelicate. *From a Legend to a Choir* builds upon the most democratic aspects of American Pop Art, from Stuart Davis to Andy Warhol to Jean-Michel Basquiat, empowering viewers by letting us bring our own stories to a wildly open-ended narrative.

Hancock's sprawling mural sets the stage. Its flower-filled setting evokes the biblical Garden of Eden and the psychedelic Summer of Love. Its figures' striped outfits recall jailhouse garb. Hancock's cast of characters is a rogues' gallery: some are headless lumps and others look more like animals than human beings, with a walrus, a four-eyed rooster and other mutants.

These creatures are part of an ongoing saga that Hancock has been telling for the past decade. He calls them "mounds" — plant-animal hybrids that behave like all of us, sometimes admirably and sometimes badly. Hancock's homegrown mythology includes a creation story, an epic battle between good and evil, an attempt at reconciliation between color-loving carnivores and scrawny, subterranean vegans, and much more. It has its roots in his personal history. Those roots nourish an inventive imagination out of which springs a world so rich with possibility that viewers cannot help but be drawn into it.

Trenton Doyle Hancock was born in 1974 in Oklahoma City, OK. He currently lives and works in Houston, TX. He received a B.F.A. from Texas A&M University in Commerce, TX, and an M.F.A. in painting at Temple University's Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, PA. Hancock has received numerous grants and awards including a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant, the Penny McCall Foundation Award, the Joyce Foundation Award, the Arch and Anne Giles Kimbrough Award and the Artadia Foundation Award. He has been included in numerous prestigious group exhibitions which have included the Lyon Biennale (2003), the Istanbul Biennial (2003) and the Whitney Biennial (2000 and 2002), and has been given solo exhibitions at the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; the Cleveland Museum of Art; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY; the Baltimore Museum of Art; the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; and the Dallas Museum of Art. In addition to his mural at Dallas Cowboys Stadium, his most recent projects include a ballet produced by Austin Ballet and a site-specific sculpture at the Seattle Art Museum. Hancock is represented by Dunn and Brown Contemporary in Dallas, TX; and James Cohan Gallery in New York, NY.

Photography by Richie Humphreys, courtesy Dallas Cowboys