



Racing Death/Pursuit of Happiness

116 Paintings

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RACING DEATH / PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

I am 80 now. When I reached my 70's I keenly realized that I am fading out. If I want to achieve anything in the time I have left I better get busy. Death is popular, everybody's doing it. If I drop dead in the next heartbeat it would be statistically normal. What did he die of? Old age. Well, he had a good life, 80 years WTF. But I am still alive! Yow! Pour another shot and spark up.

The realization of my mortality created mental imagery which I, artist that I am, naturally rendered in drawing and painting to symbolize what I was experiencing. It's what I do - in this particular a running man image conveying the mood I was in at the time of the doing. I'm a runner, I used to run round the Hollywood Reservoir, 3.3 miles twice. I was proud of that till I found out a Marathon is 26 miles, but never mind. Not bad for an old smoker/drinker/wanker.

My focus on my ongoing projects, normally somewhat obsessive, was impinged upon by mental images of myself running, running, running. Inspired, dejected, excited, depressed, exuberant, exhausted, falling down, rising up. "**Racing Death**" I called them. Well, that title depressed everybody, nobody wanted to hear that at all. As I proceeded to produce over 200 drawings and paintings over a year or two I changed it to "**Pursuit of Happiness**". That cheered everybody up and it prevailed until recently but I felt the theme needed the drama of the original title so I brought it back.

Inevitably the imagery required the symbol of death, the skull. It represents the past, the myriad lives that have gone before, bequeathing us our own scenario of potential. The past is our kick off, our lever, our baseline to advance upon whether it's as epic as fire, the wheel, agriculture, mechanization or renewable energy. Or your own Mom and Dad you should be so lucky.

Running is a compelling theme for us. We are the best runners on the planet. Not as fast as cheetahs and horses but for long distances at steady speed there are no better animals at running than we are. Two strong legs, great agility, big lungs, stereo vision, plus vivid determination - the hunter. Consider way back, a well placed spear or arrow seldom kills outright and the wounded beast flees. The hunter pursues the prey for as long as it takes, makes the kill and the tribe is supplied with food, garments, tools and weapons. Talk about pursuit of happiness.

We love racing and we applaud our Olympians, but the real giveaway is our constant referencing. There is something about running that is fundamental to us. Running is our prevailing metaphor. We run machines, run a business, run for office, run risks, run the show, run to the store, run for the money, run the numbers, run ragged, run outta steam, run into some luck, guess who I ran into. The list goes on. Run with it.

All my friends, from childhood up to college, even the old arty crowd are dead. All. I have many new friends but our history together goes back only a decade or so. I feel lucky and somewhat alone. I'm still ambitious, striving for some kind of payoff for my yards and yards of artwork that nobody much wants or needs. At this stage there seems to be no appealing alternative to the running dream. It's fun, I like running and what it symbolizes. Happiness is readily found in the pursuit. I guess that is why I remain an amiable soul, but frustrated and angry all the same. As for whether death is final or whether we pass into an intangible dimension of consciousness there is no unanimous conclusion. Personally I am not eager to discover either one, that's why the race is still on. Although my pursuit of happiness requires energy that diminishes by the day and feels like it may kill me, still it is something I relish. I am enjoying the risk.

If you are young and you are still reading this I am pleased to say that although "**Racing Death**" has little meaning for you, the image of the runner, man and woman, "**Pursuit of Happiness**" seems definitely to have poignancy.

OVERHEARD :

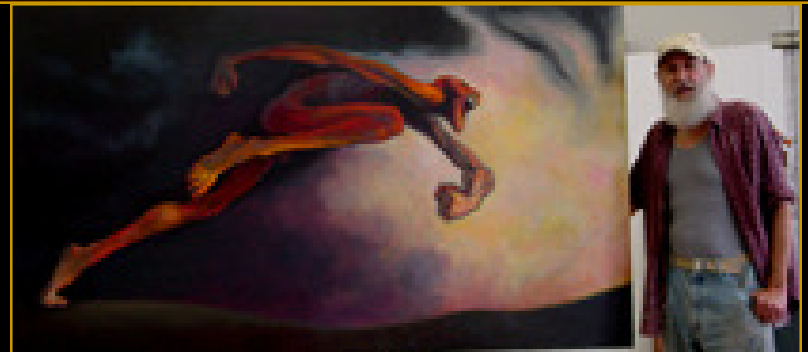
1. "Just seeing these in a big room. Wow. Guys speeding, falling, struggling, all going in the same direction, forward forward forward round and round the gallery. Very exciting spectacle."
2. "That's me!"
3. "I'm that one."
4. "Wow I know this guy!"
5. "Kinda sexy really"
6. "Men. *Men*. Gawdamighty."
7. "Fawhhhhk, I really like these."
8. "Oh God - Honey it's *you!*"
9. "People will see these and see themselves."
10. "These are way... they're too much."
11. "Fawhhhhhhk man, these are cool!"
12. "I want this one and this one. This is *me!* Wo."
13. "First time I ever saw modern art that meant anything."
14. "Very exciting just to look at."
15. "Fawhhhhk!"
16. "Insane, man, insane!"
17. "Who did these? They are hot!
I mean, like, wo!"
18. "You got me. That one there. Wo."
19. "Call these expressionist or whatever, man, these are stark realism!"



1. oil on canvas, 36" x 48", 91.5 x 122 cm, 2009



2. oil on canvas, 48" x 84", 122 x 213 cm, 2009





3. oil on canvas, 36" x 48", 91.5 x 122 cm, 2009



4. oil on wood panel, 48" x 72", 122 x 183 cm, 2009



6. oil on canvas, 48" x 60", 122 x 152.5 cm, 2009



7. oil on wood panel, 19" x 25"; 48 x 63.5 cm



8. oil on wood panel, 19" x 26"; 48 x 66

SOLD



9. oil on wood panel, 15" x 20";
38 x 51 cm



10. oil on wood panel 18" x 23.5";
45.5 x 59.5cm



11. oil on wood panel, 13.5" x 20";
34.5 x 51 cm



12. oil on wood panel, 15" x 20";
38 x 51cm



13. oil on wood panel, 19" x 26"; 48.5 x 66 cm



14. oil on wood panel, 15" x 20"; 38 x 51 cm



15. oil on wood panel, 19" x 26"; 48.5 x 66 cm



16. oil on wood panel, 24" x 36"; 61 x 92.5 cm



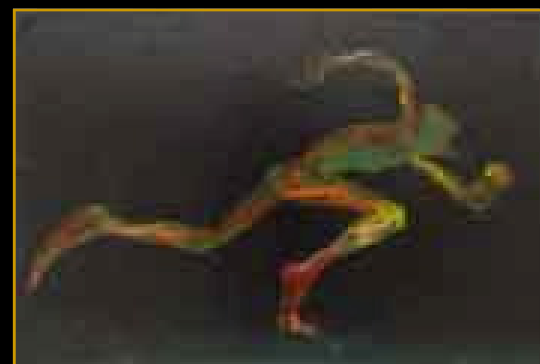
17. oil on wood panel, 17.5" x 25";
44.5 x 63.5

SOLD

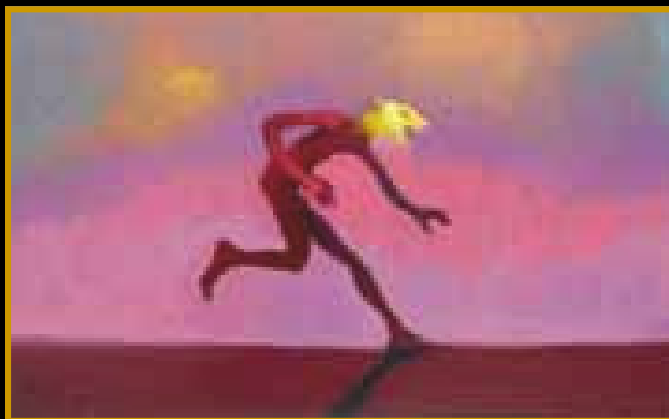


18. oil on wood panel, 24" x 36"; 61 x 92.5 cm

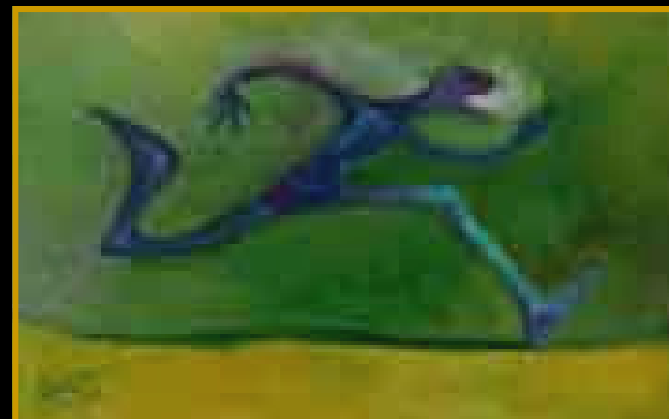
SOLD



19. oil on wood panel, 12" x 18";
30.5 x 46 cm



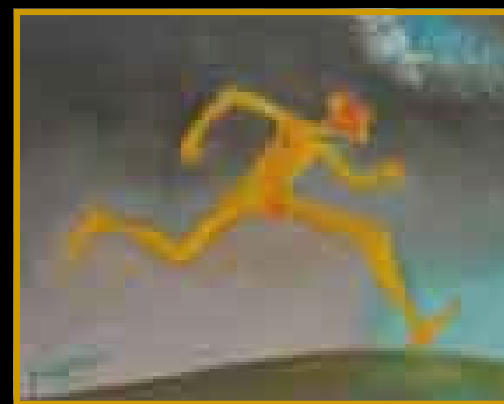
20. oil on wood panel, 15" x 24"; 38 x 61 cm



21. oil on wood panel, 15" x 24"; 38 x 61 cm



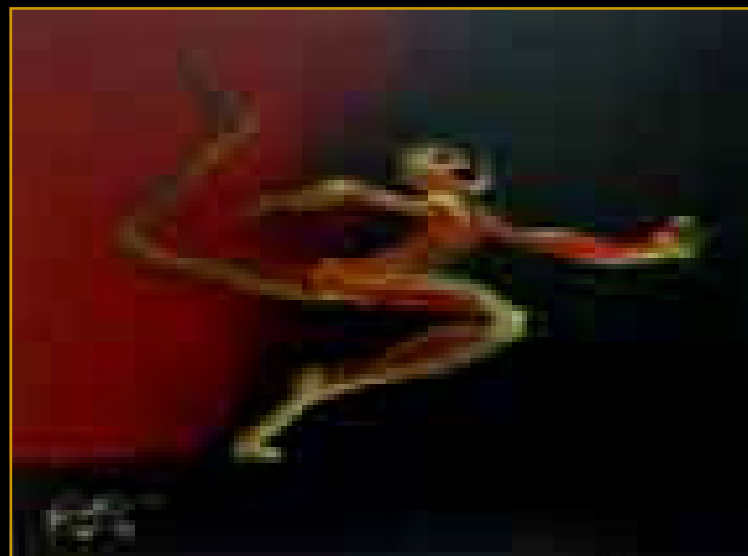
22. oil on wood panel, 15" x 20";
38 x 51 cm



23. oil on wood panel, 12.5" x 16";
32 x 40.5 cm



24. oil on wood panel, 15" x 20"; 38 x 51 cm



25. oil on wood panel, 15" x 20"; 38 x 51 cm



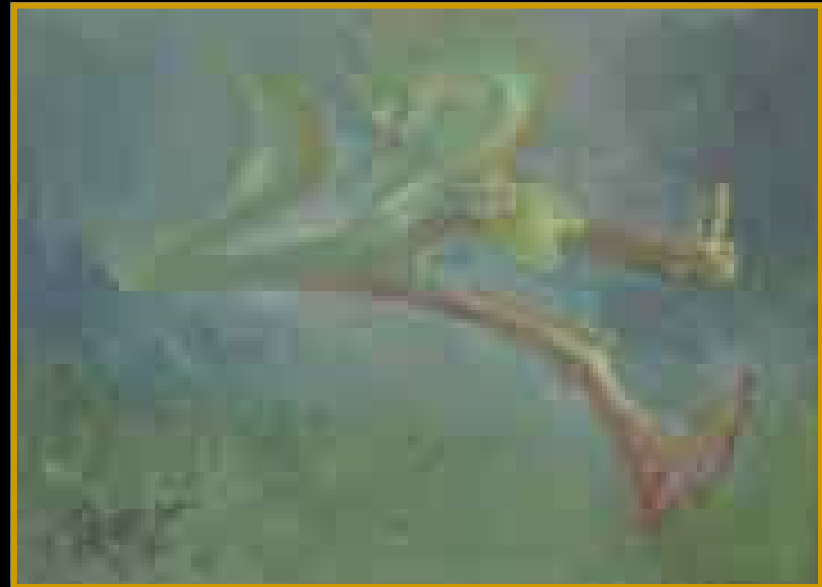
26. oil on wood panel, 12" x 17.5"; 30.5 x 44.5 cm



27. oil on wood panel, 15" x 20"; 38 x 51 cm



28. oil on wood panel, 12" x 18"; 30.5 x 46 cm



29. oil on wood panel, 16" x 22"; 40.5 x 56 cm

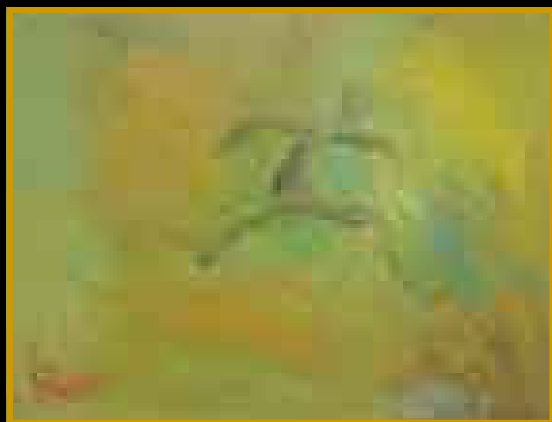


30. oil on wood panel, 18" x 24"; 46 x 61 cm

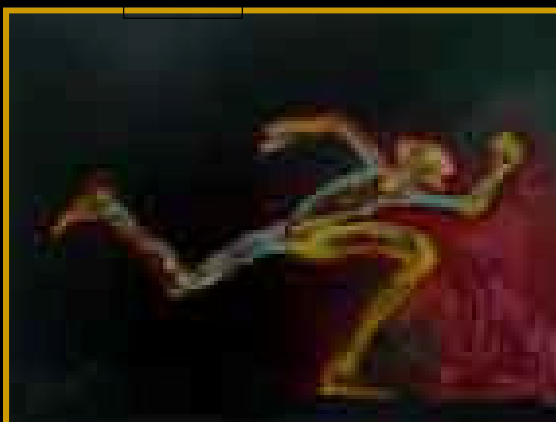


31. oil on wood panel, 11" x 13.5"; 28 x 34.5

SOLD



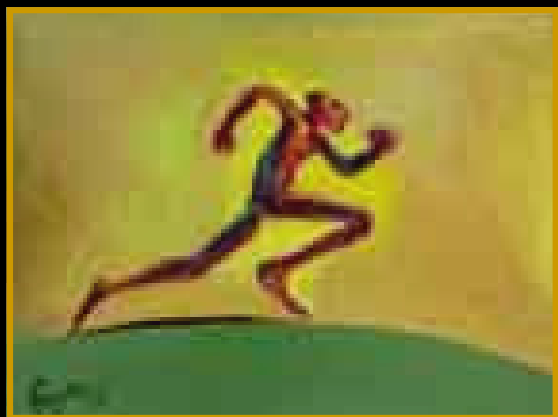
32. oil on wood panel, 13.5" x 17.5";
34 x 44.5 cm



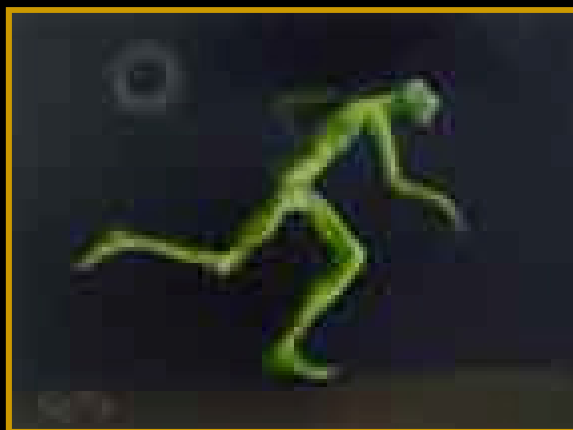
33. oil on wood panel, 14" x 18";
35.5 x 46 cm



34. oil on wood panel, 16" x 24";
40.5 x 61 cm



35. oil on wood panel, 18" x 24";
46 x 61 cm



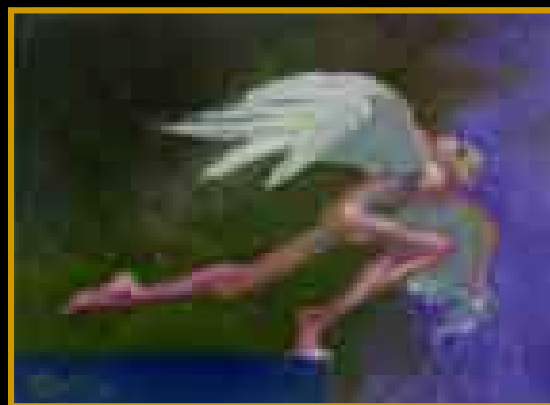
36. oil on wood panel, 15" x 20";
38 x 51 cm



37. oil on wood panel, 16" x 20";
40.5 x 51 cm

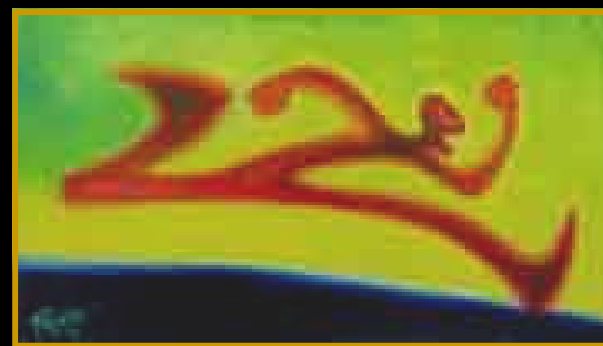


38. oil on canvas, 20" x 20"; 38 x 51 cm



39. oil on wood panel, 16" x 22";
40.5 x 56 cm

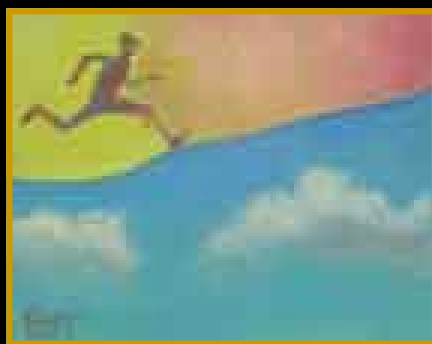
SOLD



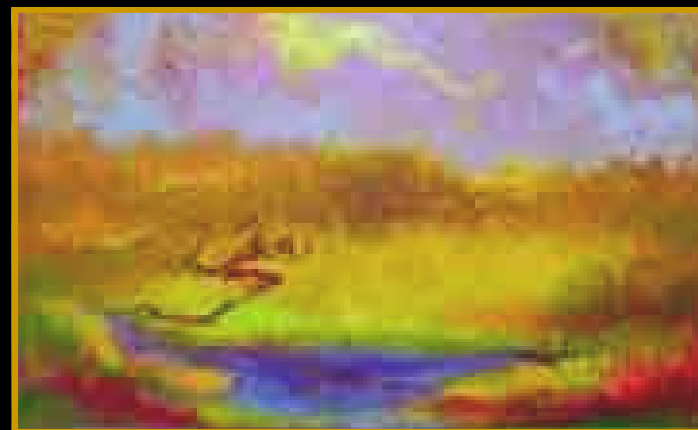
40. oil on wood panel, 13.5" x 24";
34 x 61 cm



41. oil on wood panel, 15" x 20";
38 x 51 cm



42. oil on wood panel, 11" x 14";
28 x 35.5 cm



43. oil on wood panel, 15" x 24";
38 x 61 cm



44. oil on wood panel, 16" x 24"; 40.5 x 61 cm



45. oil on wood panel, 15" x 24"; 38 x 61 cm

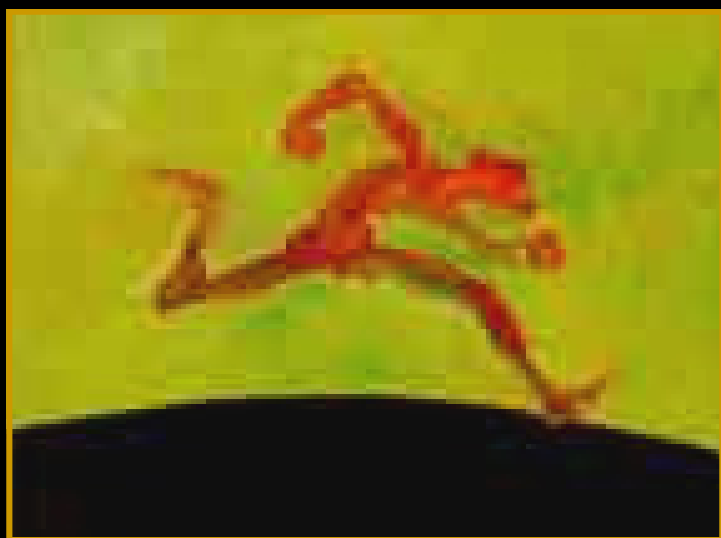


46. oil on wood panel, 16" x 24"; 40.5 x 61 cm

SOLD



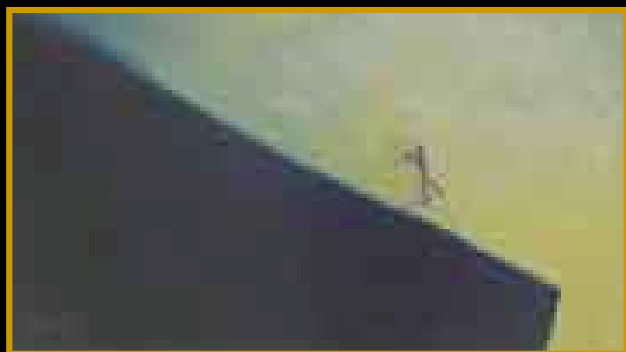
47. oil on wood panel, 13.5" x 18"; 34 x 46 cm



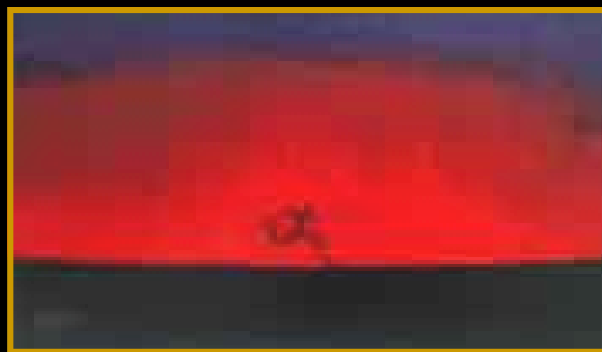
48. oil on wood panel, 18" x 24"; 46 x 61 cm



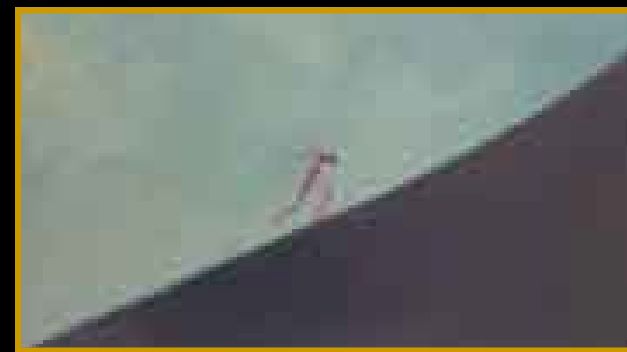
49. oil on wood panel, 16" x 24"; 40.5 x 61 cm



50. oil on wood panel, 14" x 24";
35.5 x 61 cm



51. oil on wood panel, 14" x 24";
35.5 x 61 cm



52. oil on wood panel, 14" x 24";
35.5 x 61 cm

SOLD



53. oil on wood panel, 18" x 24";
46 x 61 cm



54. oil on wood panel,
12" x 12";
30.5 x 30.5 cm



55. oil on wood panel, 23" x 23";
58.5 x 58.5 cm



56. oil on wood panel, 13.5" x 21.5";
34 x 54.5 cm



57. oil on wood panel, 15" x 27.5"; 38 x 44.5 cm



58. oil on wood panel, 12" x 15";
30.5 x 38 cm



59. oil on wood panel, 12" x 18";
30.5 x 46 cm



60. oil on wood panel, 16" x 24";
40.5 x 61 cm



61. oil on wood panel, 15" x 28"; 38 x 71 cm



62. oil on wood panel, 16" x 28"; 40.5 x 71 cm

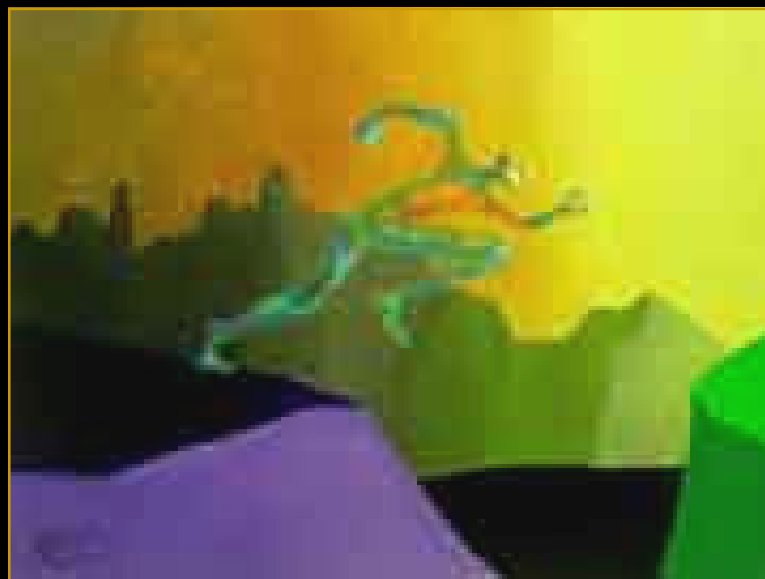


63. oil on wood panel, 20" x 28"; 51 x 71 cm

SOLD



64. oil on wood panel, 20" x 20";
51 x 51 cm



65. oil on wood panel, 24" x 32"; 61 x 81 cm



66. oil on wood panel, 16" x 24";
40.5 x 61 cm



67. oil on wood panel, 24" x 32"; 61 x 81 cm



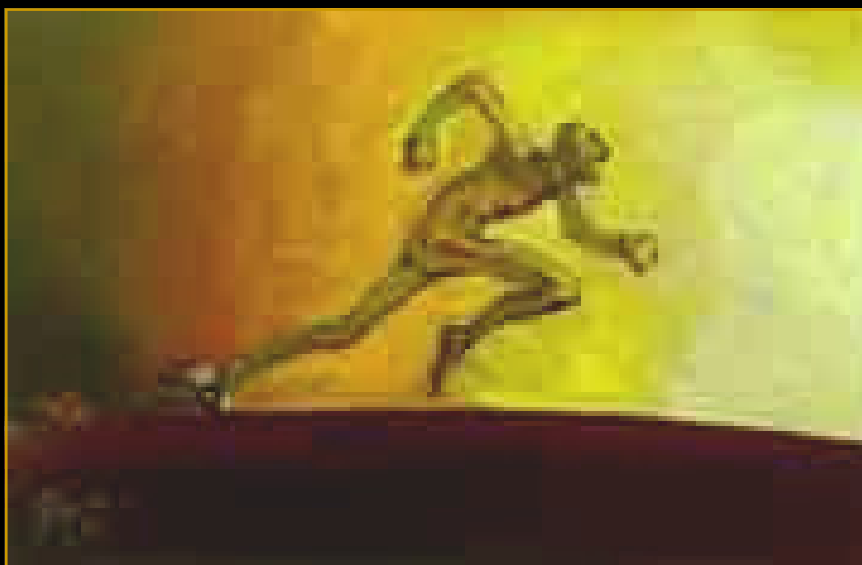
68. oil on wood panel, 24" x 32"; 61 x 81 cm



69. oil on wood panel, 18" x 24"; 46 x 61 cm



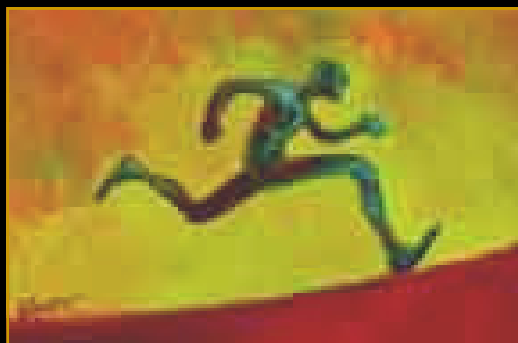
70. oil on wood panel, 16" x 24"; 40.5 x 61 cm



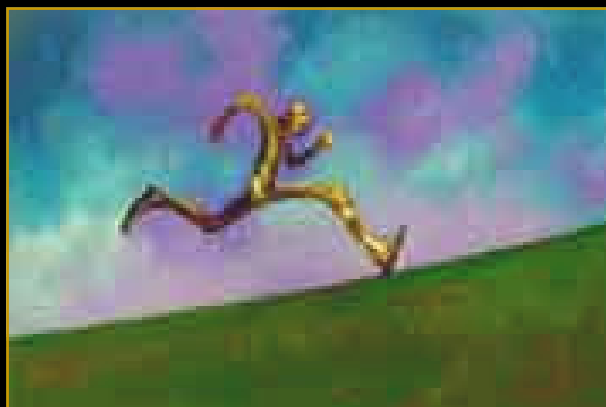
71.



72. oil on wood panel, 16" x 20"; 40.5 x 51 cm



73. oil on wood panel, 12" x 18";
30.5 x 46 cm



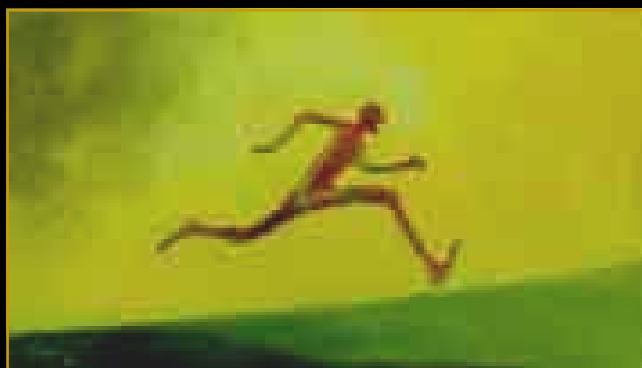
74. oil on wood panel, 16" x 24";
40.5 x 61 cm



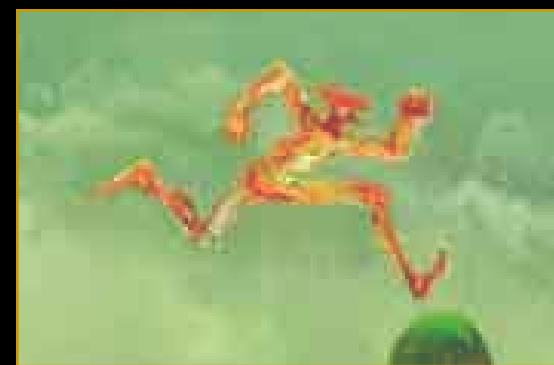
75. oil on wood panel, 16" x 24";
40.5 x 61 cm



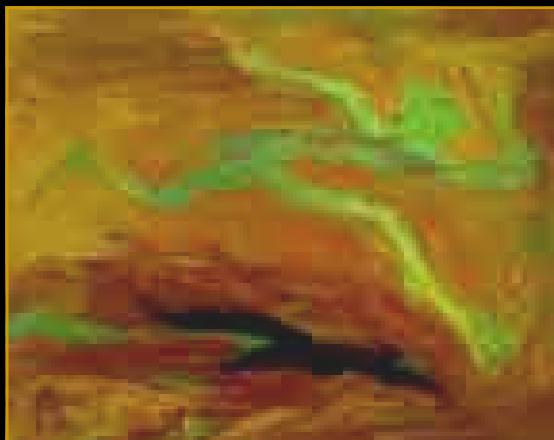
76. Oil on wood panel, 16" x 24";
40.5 x 61 cm



77. oil on wood panel, 16" x 28"; 40.5 x 71 cm



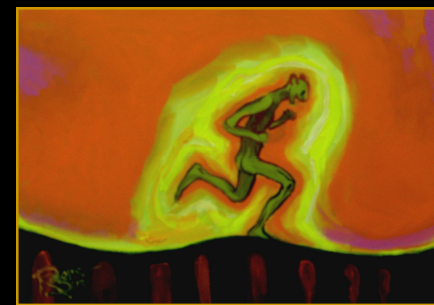
78. Oil on wood panel, 16" x 24";
40.5 x 61 cm



79. oil on wood panel, 16" x 20";
40.5 x 51 cm



80. oil on wood panel, 12" x 15";
30.5 x 38 cm

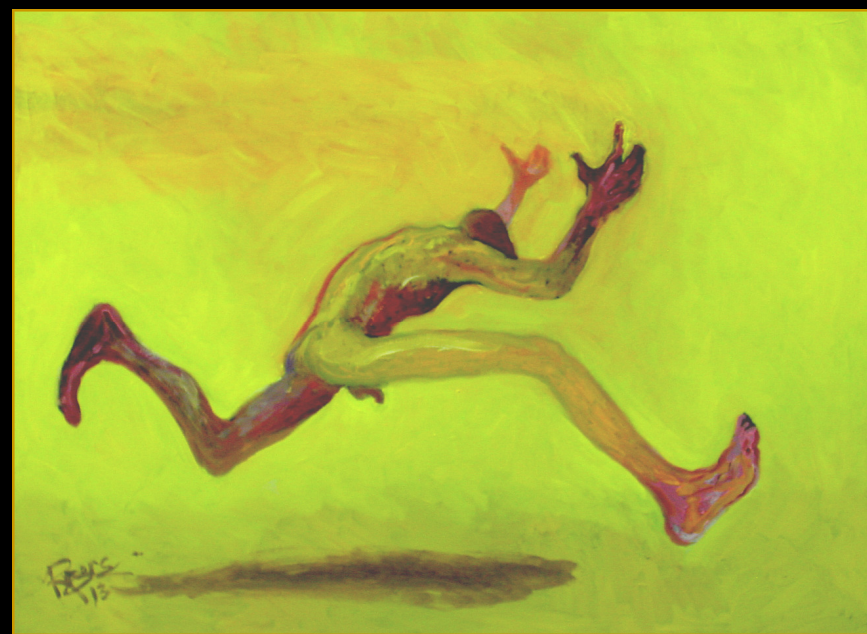


81. oil on wood panel, 10" x 13.5";
25.5 x 34 cm

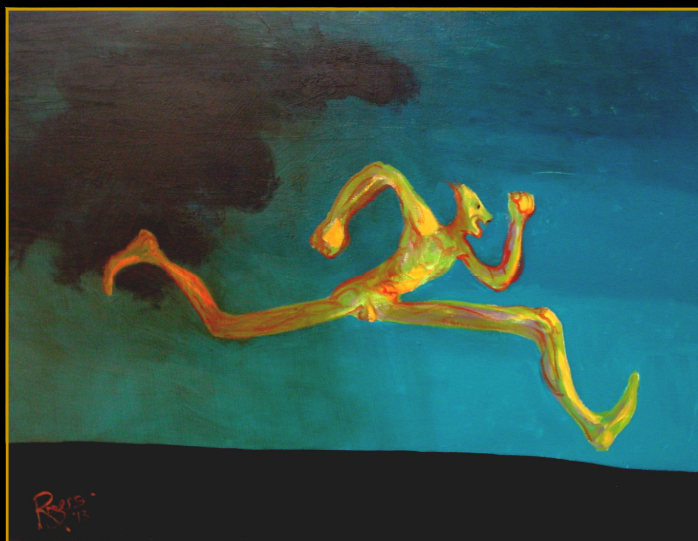
SOLD



82. oil on wood panel, 15" x 24"; 38 x 61 cm



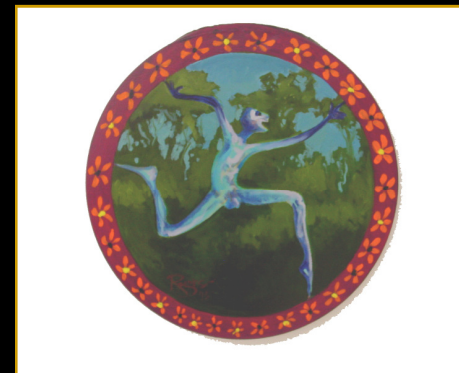
83. oil on wood panel, 19" x 26"; 48 x 66 cm



84. oil on wood panel, 24" x 32"; 61 x 81 cm



85. oil on wood panel, 8" x 8"; 20 x 20 cm



86. oil on canvas, 16" dia.; 40.5 cm dia.



87. oil on wood panel, 32" x 48"; 34 x 122 cm



88. oil on wood panel, 32" x 48"; 81 x 122 cm



89. oil on wood panel, 32" x 48"; 34 x 122 cm



90. oil on canvas, 28" x 36"; 71 x 91.5 cm

SOLD



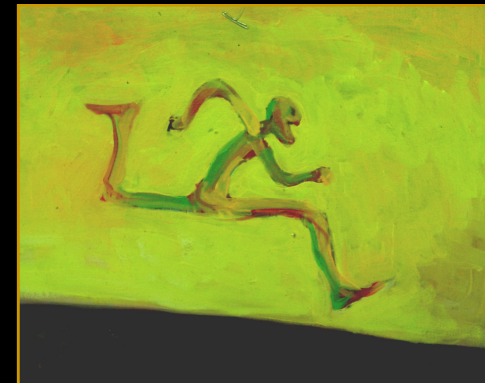
91. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



92. oil on wood panel, 8" x 12";
20 x 30.5 cm

SOLD



93. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



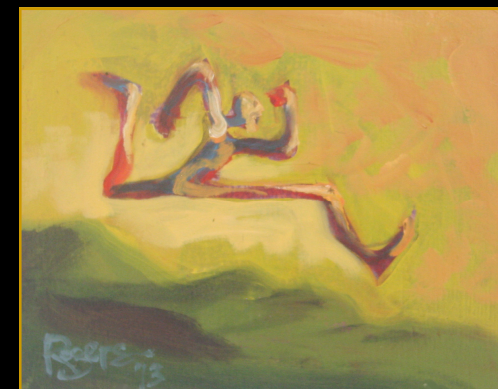
94. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



95. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



96. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



97. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



98. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm



99. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



100. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



101. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm



102. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



103. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



104. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



105. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



106. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



107. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



108. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



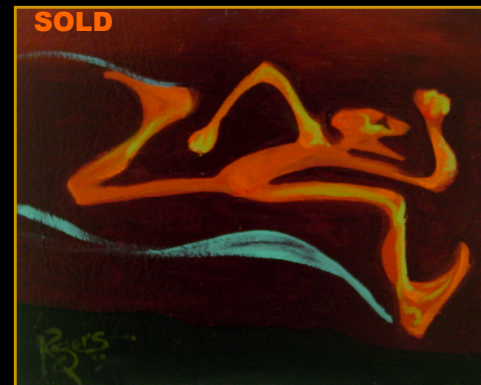
109. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



110. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



111. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD

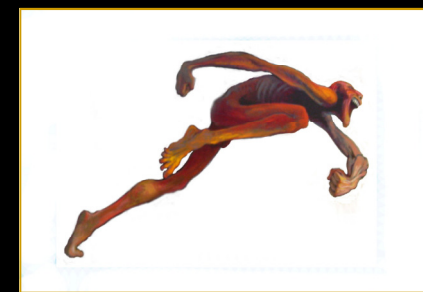


112. oil on wood panel, 8" x 10";
20 x 25.5 cm

SOLD



113. oil on wood panel, 8" x 12";
20 x 30.5 cm



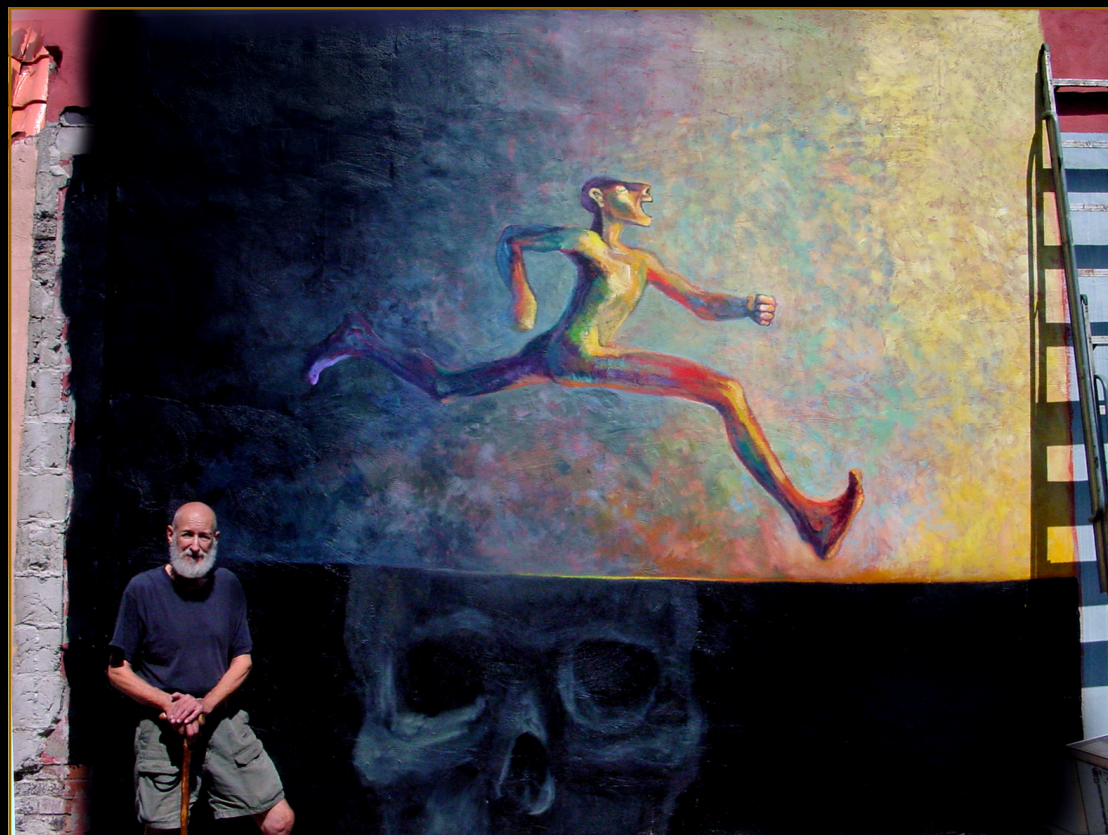
114. LTD ED (25) PRINT
18" x 24"
Cut from painting #2



115. oil on canvas, 48" x 60"; 122 x 152.5 cm



116 oil on canvas, 24" x 36"; 61 x 91 cm



Outdoor mural in Art Alley, downtown Niagara Falls NY
about 14 feet ; about 4 meters