



The Strand Collection

Andy Dixon -*Large Ship Painting, 2023*

Andy Dixon is a Vancouver-born contemporary artist, now residing in Los Angeles, whose work explores themes of opulence, leisure, and the intersection of high and popular culture. His work, *Large Ship Painting, 2023*, showcases his signature vibrant and bold style. This piece, part of his *Wow! More Sizes Upstairs* collection, continues to explore these themes through his method of re-contextualizing familiar visual elements in a way that challenges traditional perceptions of value and taste in art. Each work in the collection comes in several sizes: extra-small, small, medium, and large, referencing clothing while underscoring art as a commodity to be consumed according to its buyer's desire to spend.

This "size large" work employs a large-scale format that magnifies its impact on the viewer. Through a combination of candy-coloured hues and exaggerated forms, Dixon transforms a classical subject—perhaps a scene of leisure or a traditional still life or in this case, a ship—into a modern, almost irreverent spectacle. His palette is audaciously colorful, employing pinks, blues, and greens that appear in stark contrast to the more subdued tones typical of the scenes he references.

Dixon's technique involves layering thick, almost tactile strokes of acrylic paint and pastel on the canvas, adding a dynamic texture to the piece. This textural play not only enhances the visual depth of the piece, but also invites a sensory interaction, urging viewers to imagine the physical act of painting. The composition, a clever reference to the historical art tropes of still-lives, dogs, horses, cherubs, and ships, blurs the lines between past and present, making a cheeky commentary on the enduring nature of a certain aesthetic associated with the wealthy and our collective cultural values.