

1999

## Erling Sjovold: Recent Paintings

University of Richmond Museums

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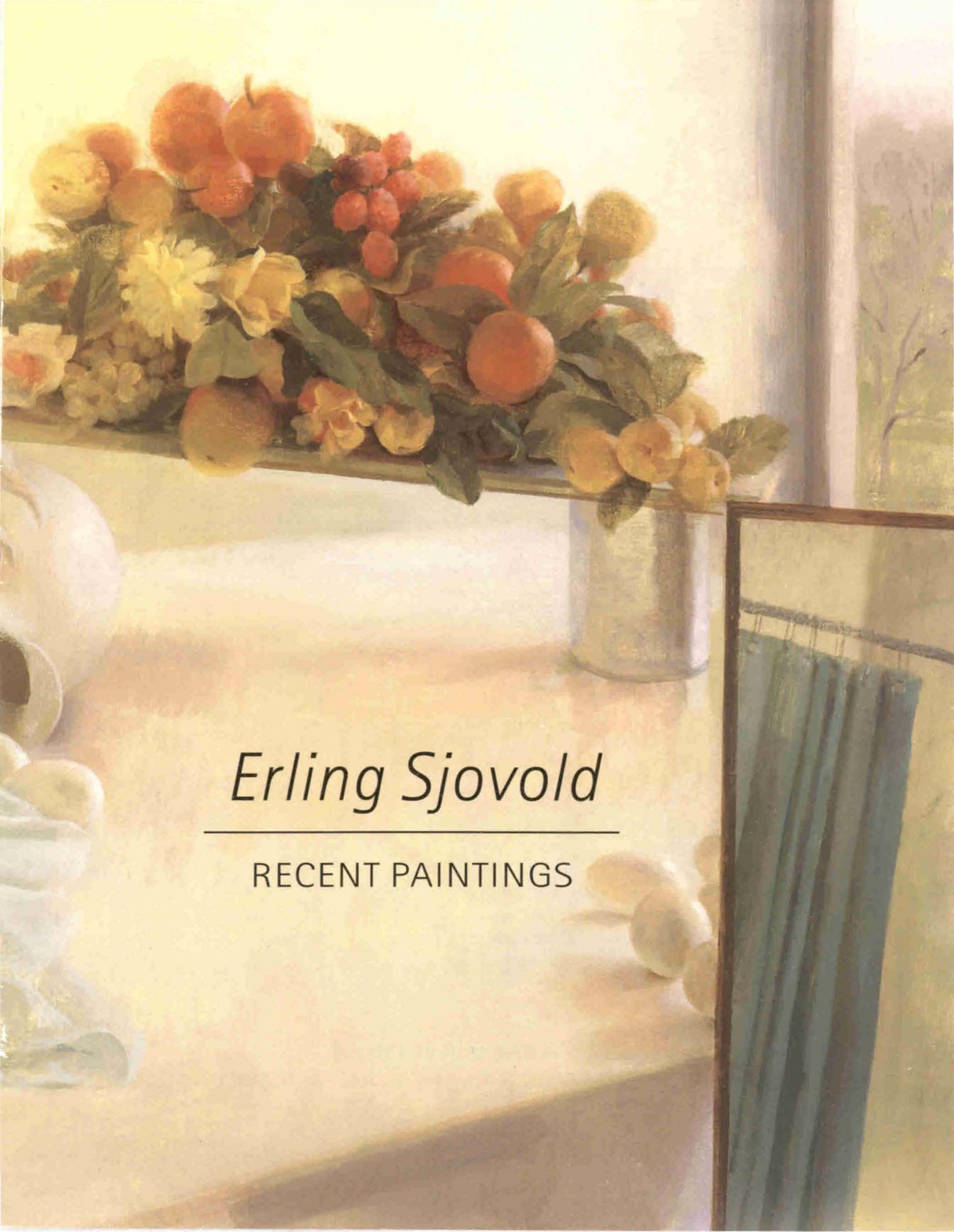
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*Erling Sjøvold*

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RECENT PAINTINGS

Published on the occasion  
of the exhibition  
*Erling Sjøvold: Recent Paintings*

Marsh Art Gallery,  
University of Richmond Museums  
October 16 to December 11, 1999

The exhibition, organized by the Marsh Art Gallery,  
University of Richmond Museums, is made possible  
with the generous support of the University of  
Richmond Cultural Affairs Committee.

Cover (detail) and frontispiece:  
*Nearly*, 1999, oil on canvas, 34 x 40 inches.  
Collection of the artist.

Photographs:  
Katherine Wetzel: *Nearly*, *Sequester*, *Aspiration*,  
*Glacier*, *Sierras '98 – Snag*, *Horsehead Lake*, and  
*Sierras '98 – Falls*, *Schoolmarm Lake*.  
Ed Hall: *Queen* and *Intermission*.  
Michael Cavanagh: *Assembly*.

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ERLING SJOVOLD: RECENT PAINTINGS

OCTOBER 16 TO DECEMBER 11, 1999  
MARSH ART GALLERY, UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND MUSEUMS



*Assembly*

1998, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 inches

## INTRODUCTION

*The recent paintings evolve out of a desire to "slow down time" and reflect on events... The excitement and tension in the paintings come from untangling and clarifying a complex mass of information, balancing parts to the whole, literal and abstract. The paintings are essentially protracted improvisations.*

— Erling Sjøvold

Erling Sjøvold's exhibition features his recent watercolors and oil paintings, works where the artist's desire to "slow down time" for reflection is the basis for images that even include the element of time as subject matter, both literally and figuratively. Like many artists that are described as "second sight artists," he creates images that require careful looking beyond the surface realism, works that do not reveal their full statements at first sight. His paintings are rich with layers of meaning that lead the viewer to deeper contemplation of the natural world and its phenomena, including light, a sense of place, and the passage of time.

While his watercolors of the landscape appear more straightforward in the plein-air method of painting, the images in his oil paintings of the still life and landscape are a complex mixture of observation and fabrication. The artist explains that he

chooses his "subjects for both their formal characteristics and their symbolic content." Blending, or bending, perceived reality with the impact of abstract form and structure to achieve a heightened reality, he imbues ordinary, commonplace objects with metaphysical overtones by placing them in extra-ordinary situations.

In these recent paintings, the artist investigates the psychologically-laden terrain of nature and natural objects combined with the objects and settings of humanity; often he brings the two genres of painting, still life and landscape, together in his simultaneously real and surreal images. His highly-charged compositions are about an environment that is both representational and metaphorical, a place where the artist juxtaposes intriguing objects and invites us to explore the possible meanings we might find there.

This fall semester, we welcome Erling Sjøvold to the faculty of the University of Richmond as assistant professor of art, and this exhibition of his paintings introduces his creativity as an artist to our university and the Richmond community.

RICHARD WALLER

*Executive Director, University Museums,  
and Director, Marsh Art Gallery,  
University of Richmond*



*Intermission*

1995, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches



*Queen*

1997, oil on canvas, 30 x 24 inches



*Sequester*

1998, oil on canvas, 18 x 62 inches





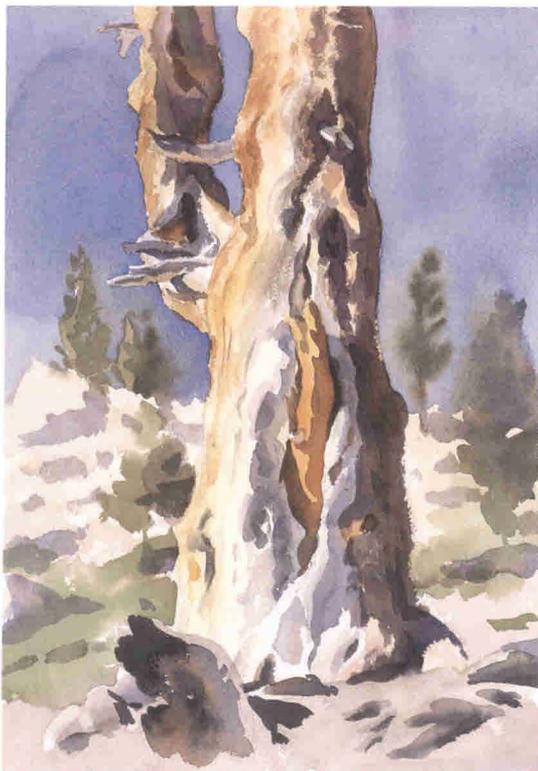
*Aspiration*

1998, oil on canvas, 33 x 33 inches

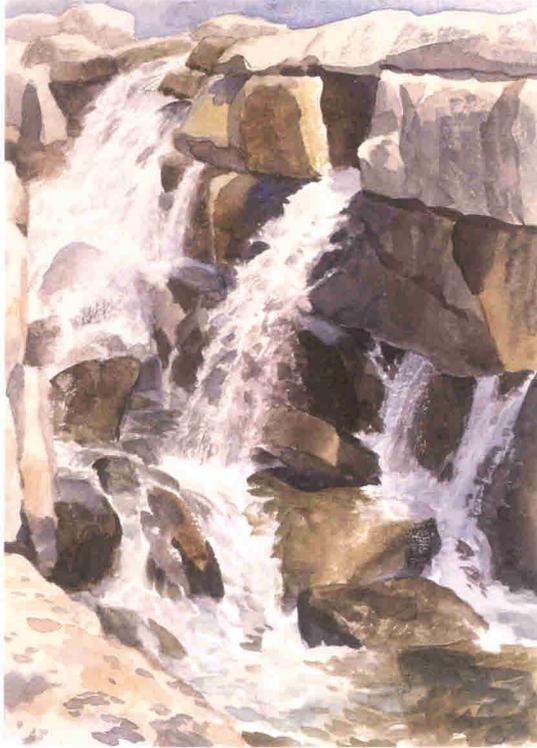


*Glacier*

1999, oil on canvas, 34 x 40 inches



*Sierras '98 – Snag, Horsehead Lake*  
1998, watercolor on paper, 10 1/4 x 7 1/8 inches



*Sierras '98 – Falls, Schoolmarm Lake*  
1998, watercolor on paper, 9 3/4 x 7 inches

## BIOGRAPHY

Born 1961 in Van Nuys, California.  
Currently Assistant Professor of Art, University  
of Richmond.  
Resides Richmond, Virginia.

### EDUCATION

M.F.A. 1990, The School of the Art Institute of  
Chicago.  
B.A. 1984, University of California at Berkeley.

### SELECTED TEACHING

1999-present, University of Richmond.  
1997-1999, Indiana University, Bloomington.  
1992-1997, Savannah College of Art and  
Design, GA.  
1990-1992, International Academy of  
Mechandising and Design, Chicago.  
1989-1990, The School of the Art Institute of  
Chicago (as a graduate teaching fellow).

### SELECTED INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

#### 1999

*Recent Paintings*, Marsh Art Gallery, University  
of Richmond Museums.  
*Recent Work*, Artemisia Gallery, Chicago.

#### 1995

*Recent Work*, Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum,  
LaGrange, GA.  
*Recent Work*, Savannah College of Art and  
Design, GA (Georgia Council of the Arts Grant  
Award Exhibition).

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

#### 1999

*Theresa Pollak and Her Influence: A Centennial  
Celebration*, Marsh Art Gallery, University of  
Richmond Museums.

*Down South*, Galerie en Passant, Hamburg,  
Germany.

*Faculty Exhibition*, Indiana University Art  
Museum, Bloomington, IN.

#### 1998

*Anniversary Exhibition*, The Gallery, Bloomington.  
*Anomalous Vistas*, College of the Redwoods,  
Eureka, CA (four-person exhibition).  
The Gallery, Bloomington, IN.

#### 1997

The Gallery, Bloomington, IN.  
*The Magic Mirror — Realist Painting Today*,  
Kennesaw State University, GA.  
*18th Annual Arts on the River Juried  
Competition*, Savannah, GA (Patron's Award).  
Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art,  
Winston-Salem, NC (two-person exhibition).  
Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA (two-  
person exhibition).  
*Fruit from Savannah*, New Century Gallery-  
Jian Cultural Center, Shanghai, China.

#### 1996

*Fruit from the Garden of Good and Evil*, LFK,  
Hong Kong (also New Vision Space, Atlanta,  
GA; West Institute Place, Chicago; Cork Street  
Gallery, London, England).

*The Real, Surreal, and Unreal Landscape*, Sylvia  
Schmidt Gallery, New Orleans, LA.

*Arts in the Heart of Georgia, Annual Juried  
Exhibition*, Gertrude Herbert Museum,  
Augusta, GA (also 1995).

*17th Annual Arts on the River Juried  
Competition*, Savannah, GA (Best of Show  
Award).

#### 1995

*25th Annual Juried Exhibition*, Allentown  
Museum, PA.

*National Contemporary Painting Competition*,  
Cheekwood Museum of Art, Nashville, TN.

*16th Annual Arts on the River Juried  
Competition*, Savannah, GA (Patron's Award).  
*Savannah College of Art and Design Exhibition*,  
Georgia State House, Atlanta.

#### 1994

*Fighting Anachronism, Three Painters*, Austin  
Peay State University, Clarksville, TN.

Ravenscroft School, Raleigh, NC (four-person  
exhibition).

#### 1991

*Recent Works*, MWMWM Gallery, Chicago.

#### 1990

*New Talent*, Contemporary Arts Workshop,  
Chicago.  
Gallery 2, The School of the Art Institute of  
Chicago (four-person exhibition).

## CHECKLIST OF THE EXHIBITION

Dimensions are in inches, height precedes width. The works are from the collection of the artist, except where otherwise noted.

### *Diary*

1994, oil on canvas, 13 x 18

### *Vacuum*

1995, oil on canvas, 8 x 10

### *Intermission*

1995, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 (illustrated)

Collection of Chris Messick

### *City Plan*

1996, oil on canvas, 14 x 11

Collection of Chris Messick

### *Queen*

1997, oil on canvas, 30 x 24 (illustrated)

Collection of Chris Messick

### *Sierras '98 – Falls, Schoolmarm Lake*

1998, watercolor on paper, 9 3/4 x 7  
(illustrated)

### *Sierras '98 – Guest Lake*

1998, watercolor on paper, 9 3/4 x 7

### *Sierras '98 – Six-Shooter Lake*

1998, watercolor on paper, 7 1/8 x 10 1/4

### *Sierras '98 – Snag, Horsehead Lake*

1998, watercolor on paper, 10 1/4 x 7 1/8  
(illustrated)

### *Part*

1998, oil on panel, 12 x 12

### *Sequester*

1998, oil on canvas, 18 x 62 (illustrated)

### *Graft*

1998, oil on panel, 12 x 12

### *Prep*

1998, oil on panel, 12 x 12

### *Soon*

1998, oil on panel, 8 x 10

### *Aspiration*

1998, oil on canvas, 33 x 33 (illustrated)

### *Assembly*

1998, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 (illustrated)  
Collection of Eve Mansdorf

### *Glacier*

1999, oil on canvas, 34 x 40 (illustrated)

### *Nearly*

1999, oil on canvas, 34 x 40 (illustrated)



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