

O.M. Norling's EPIC ART

One spring day in the mid-1800s, young Swedish farmhand Olaf Magnus Norling mysteriously disappeared. His whereabouts were unknown around his home in Gothenburg. Years later, a letter addressed to his mother arrived from New Orleans. O.M. wrote that he missed his family dearly but that he had to see America with his own eyes and had stowed away on a trans-Atlantic steamer to make his ambition a reality. He worked his way up the Mississippi, changed his name to Alexander Wilson and settled in Effingham, Illinois – never to return to Sweden.

Today, Olaf's epic adventure is a touchstone for great-great-grandson Jay Wilson, an Atlanta artist who has adopted the pen name O.M. Norling for his latest series, "A Curious Art Spectacle." A pop-up art show featuring 20 of his paintings will be on view Jan. 26-Feb. 4, 2018, at The Solarium in Decatur's Oakhurst community.

"This story of mystery, audacity and reinvention aligned with the spirit, style and subject matter that I began painting 10 years ago," Wilson said of his eccentric still lifes, created with oil and mixed media on birchwood panel. "The animal imagery and whimsical compositions combine to form allegories of beauty, humor and darkness cast in an early 20th century world."

The son of a career army father, Wilson spent six formative years attending school in Germany and South Korea. This exposure to European and Asian cultures heavily influenced his painting style.

"For a while I've been very interested in what lies beyond the passing glance," he said. "It's so easy to get caught up in the noise and the pace of life that the quiet details of the in-between often get overlooked. I think we've become satisfied with a Venetian-blind view of people and our surroundings. But, what does the world look like when you slow down, look behind the glance and see through the blur?"



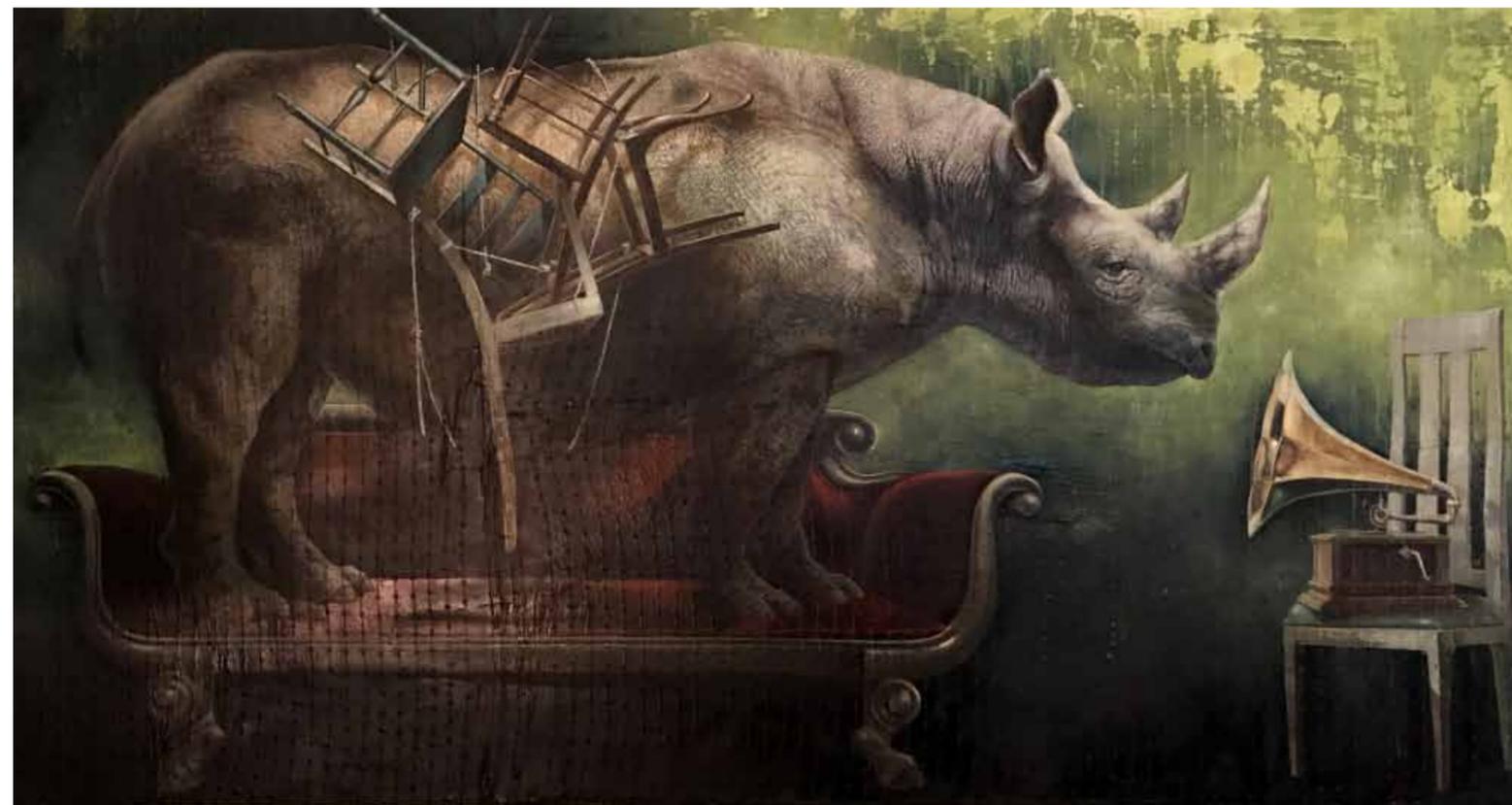
**O.M. Norling:
"A Curious Art
Spectacle"
Jan. 26-Feb. 4
The Solarium
Decatur**

His intriguing works continue to enthrall collectors.

"It's hard to imagine building a home around a piece of art, but I did exactly that. I instantly fell in love with the piece and knew it had to be the focal point of my home," said Atlanta chef/restaurateur Kevin Gillespie. "The piece has such drama and whimsy that seeing it everyday fills me with the same joy it did the

first time I laid eyes on it."

"I have one of O.M. Norling's paintings at my winery so I can admire it daily," said Jim Clendenen, California winemaker and owner of Au Bon Climat. "True, the bottle of my wine in the artwork originally caught my eye, but the imagery, richness of paint, and attention to detail is captivating. It is classic. I find myself constantly needing a closer look."



There's a form of beauty that prefers the concealment of shade. One that nonetheless grows and blooms over time and achieves a fullness by way of the nicks, slights, burdens and scars...the unique flaws and facets of a life lived. The toll is costly, but beauty in this form is ageless and it is owned in full. Truth, strength, humor and re-invention flourish within this space. It's everywhere you look...if you care to see it with new eyes.

– O.M. NORLING, "A CURIOUS ART SPECTACLE"

O.M. Norling paintings: (ABOVE) *Welcome Alterations To The Guest List*, (RIGHT) *Unguarded Moment of Self-Evident Grandeur*, (OPPOSITE PAGE) *Burden, Ecstasy and Repetition*. For more details, visit omnorling.com.

