



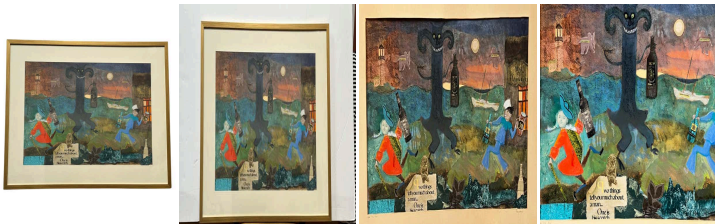
"Yo, Ho, Ho" Great Britain's Colonial History-
Mixed Media by Gregory

As low as **\$650**

In stock

SKU

LU825835221252



Details

If we cannot say much about the painter, we can say many things about this piece of Great Britain's colonial history! Gregory's enigmatic mixed media artwork, "Yo, Ho, Ho," emerges as a layered tapestry of symbolism, merging past and present. Crafted through watercolor and collages, the artwork weaves disparate elements into a provocative tableau that challenges viewers to consider the deeper implications of empire, unity, and the seductive allure of influence.

At the center of the composition, an imposing figure with a devilish grin and four arms holds court. This dark, enigmatic character, endowed with an unsettling sense of authority, clutches a bottle labeled "Bottled in Scotland." Flanked on either side by a whimsical aristocrat and a tipsy sailor, they form an unlikely trio bound by the shared joy of inebriation. In their hands, these figures hold potent symbols of intoxication - blended scotch, a pint adorned with the United Kingdom blazon, and a bottle of Canadian mist. Each bottle encapsulates its own narrative, offering a prism to scrutinize the intricate web of historical and cultural threads.

The mise-en-scène is set against the backdrop of a port's nocturnal shoreline. A lighthouse's beam pierces the darkness, casting its guiding light across the scene, while a quaint liquor shop, labeled "Vins et Liqueurs," bathes in a warm glow that contrasts the pale moonlight. The horizon, tinged with a distant pink hue, evokes both the promise and uncertainty of the future.

Dominating the frame are two elephants, each bearing the burden of their symbolic weight. On the left, an elephant adorned with King George V's label stands resolute, while on the right, another elephant dons King George VI's emblem. Below the latter, a sailboat navigates turbulent seas, christened with the name "Queen Victoria." These historical markers



anchor the narrative, representing the grandeur, transformation, and challenges that shaped the British Empire's trajectory.

At the bottom of the composition, a collage element quotes a 1970 Seagram's 100 Pipers Scotch ad. The subversive text, "Two things tell you much about a man... One is his scotch," lends an extra depth to the artwork, casting a discerning light on the characters' drink choices and, metaphorically, their true essence.

Gregory's masterstroke lies in his subversive critique of the British Empire's legacy. The allegorical juxtaposition of monarchs who presided over its expansion, zenith, and eventual dissolution speaks volumes about the artist's intent. By exploiting the scotch metaphor - a blend of cultures, histories, and identities - the artist delves into the superficial unity that masked underlying divisions. The Canadian mist, the cheap scotch, is a testament to unity's fragility.

Further adding to the complexity is the presence of the French liquor shop, an eloquent nod to France's own colonial endeavors. This juxtaposition exposes the hypocrisy of imperial ambitions, unmasking the illusion of noble principles while serving personal interests. The irony is palpable: nations that proclaimed the virtues of blending cultures embraced their own ethnocentric agendas.

"Yo, Ho, Ho" transcends its physical form to become an illuminating commentary on history, power dynamics, and cultural entanglements. Gregory, the unknown artist, wields symbolism as a potent tool to question conventional narratives, encouraging viewers to peel back layers of deception, reflect upon the narratives that shaped empires, and confront the intoxication of dominance. In its depth, the artwork invites viewers to contemplate the darkness lurking behind the gilded surface, prompting them to consider the stories we tell ourselves and the illusions we perpetuate.

REFERENCE NUMBER: LU825835221252

PERIOD: Late 20th Century

CONDITION: Good

MEASUREMENTS: Height: 19.25" Width: 28.25" Depth: 1.75"

COUNT: 1

MATERIAL: Paint, Paper

CREATOR: Gregory

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United Kingdom