

New exhibit at MOD explores modern day myths

The Silo Gallery at the Museum of Dufferin will soon offer a new exhibit that will open on Saturday, April 23.

The gallery will feature the works of Steven Volpe, an Orangeville artist who describes his work as in the tradition of figurative realism, but with a decidedly contemporary sensibility.

Mr. Volpe is a full-time artist, however it was a long process after getting experience in related fields that led to his current status.

He has degrees in both fine arts and education, was a teacher, and was employed as a graphic designer.

These positions have all played a significant role in shaping his art.

A visual travel log of random entries, or a series of topical modern-day myths – looking at my paintings together in one viewing, it becomes apparent that there are qualities of each on display,” Mr. Volpe said of his work. “Sometimes political in tone, sometimes psychological, always personal, my paintings do bear the imprint of our time. However, I have learned that social commentary can seamlessly coexist with childhood nostalgia – often on the same canvas. I leave room for a bit of humour and visual irony too. The narratives evolve gradually from a process of discovery and exploration, taking on a life of their own.”

Mr. Volpe uses recurring themes in his work and challenges the viewer to ask questions about what they see on the canvas.

“Smoke and fire are recurring motifs in my work,” Mr. Volpe explained. “As a very versatile device in a painting, smoke can suggest the productivity of churning machinery or, at the other extreme, environmental destruction.”

The works of Steven Volpe will be on display at the Museum of Dufferin from April 23 to July 2.

By Brian Lockhart