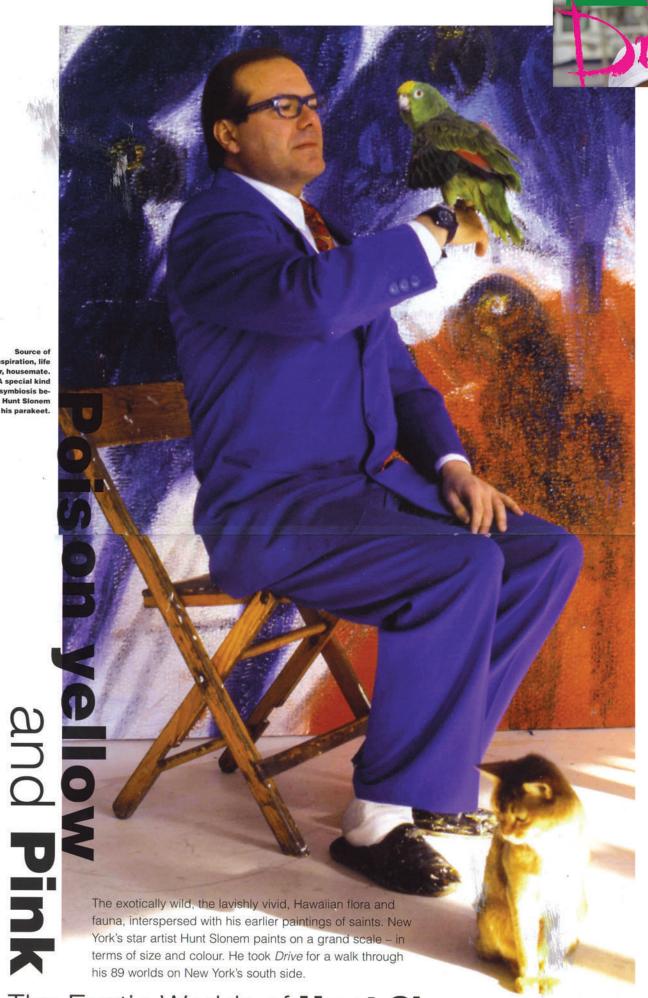
inspiration, life

partner, housemate. A special kind of symbiosis between Hunt Slonem and his parakeet.



Europcar

The Exotic Worlds of Hunt Slonem





We quickly lose our orientation in this tabyrinth of rooms, halls and walls. All around us and at every turn a steady rhythm of paintings, paintings paintings, until it all abruptly transitions into a place that is completely off-beat. The small, blue room is the meditative heart of the atelier, transporting the observer into another world, a blend of Asian culture and oriental religions. Hunt is not religious, he assures us. But his spiritual nature is unmistakeable. Later on he will tell us reverently of the Krishna disciple Mother Meera, for whom he twice a year makes the long journey to Germany to tank up on new life energy in her presence.

The blue room is the kind of place that makes you want to pause, reflect, breathe deeply. But Hunt Slonem leaves no time for this. Hustling along right at our host's heels, we are relieved, if not to say pleased, when



Photos: Bärbel Miebach

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once again his cell phone halts our hastened walkabout, if only for a short breather. Business never ceases. "I don't worry about where my pictures are hanging. The important thing is that they are selling," is his reply to the inquisitive expressions on our faces. Hunt collectors will shell out anywhere between 3,500 and 100,000 dollars for one of his works. "Depends on the size." But for these prices, the art lovers can customorder a piece tailored to their every desire or colour preference. One recent example: a portrait of Donald Trump. A genuine Hunt Slonem as a commissioned work.

The 54-year-old native of Maine with Russian roots stages his works of art most effectively within his own four walls, such as his palace-like country house in Kingston on the banks of the Hudson River or yet another grandiose estate in Louisiana which he only visits a few times a year. Visitors can marvel at Hunt Slonem's masterpieces in the New York Guggenheim and the equally renowned Whitney Museum of American Art, as well as some 150 other museums throughout the world which play either brief stopover or permanent home to his paintings. And what are his plans for 2006? Hunt Slonem broods over the question, gently petting the fine-feathered friend on his shoulder: "Six to seven exhibits, I think, and a new book. Oh yeah, and also the TV work ..."

Doris Pospischil





