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LAYERS: Peter Sloan

Mutual Tower Gallery

September 11th to January 8th, 2005

The earth is degenerating these days.

Bribery and corruption abound.

Children no longer mind parents.

Every man wants to write a book,

and it is evident that the end of the world is
approaching fast.



~ Assyrian tablet, 2000 B.C.

Peter Sloan's work is often related to the natural world. Having been an amateur naturalist all of his life, the influence of that ongoing interest shows itself in his work. Mankind's spiritual relationship with the earth and the art of primitive cultures has always held a mysterious fascination for him. In some of his more recent work in clay and plaster Sloan creates icons in celebration of man's relationship with nature.

Sloan frequently works in different mediums such as plaster, clay, wax, bronze and silver. The mediums he uses, and the techniques, often over-lap with one another – the process to create one type of work becomes a "finished" work on its own. Developing skills and techniques in working with one kind of material invariably helps in a wide variety of ways in working with others.

Using hand modeled pieces of highly detailed and intricate cast silver jewellery and a variety of textures from both manmade and organic sources, Sloan has collected and made a personal library and repertoire of images that are used as stamps and forms to construct plaster reliefs. The images are arrayed and arranged to evoke both arthropod and anthropologic feelings in a richly detailed and ornamental presentation. They are painted in tones to give a quality reminiscent of ancient architecture. The 12 works on view are related by some common images to form a sequential transition, which is intended to give the viewer a sense of history of the past as well as

the future. There is a blend of both organic fossil like images and cryptic images with archaic forgotten glyphs all woven in various layers and patterns both familiar and chaotic. The images are striking, spellbinding and provoke the cabalistic and inherent spirituality within us all.

Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery

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