

# “Untitled 1”

CR Rousseau  
Oil on Canvas  
48 x 48 inches  
\$4400



## Rationale from **Carson Lovett, Fashion Designer, Alexander McQueen Scholar**

The aesthetic tension in a person transforming from a proustian aristocrat to a bohemian fanatic (weird girl). I researched bohemianism through pre-raphaelite era objects to connect it to the vintage and thrift centric movements of the modern bohemian in the weird girl aesthetic, which I conclude is the contemporary bohemian fanatic. Experimenting with materials, contrasting both old and new, drape and structure and using people like Klara Perlmutter (aka TinyJewishGirl) as references for the weird girl aesthetic, I used a mix of eclectic fabrics and trims to create bohemian garments with a contemporary tension. Experimenting with symbols and objects of pre-raphaelite era bohemian communities, such as Meissen porcelain, and sugar shade lamps while interpreting them through a highly processed almost synthetic lens I employed a key phrase for this collection: “bells and whistles”.

Representing the act of collecting, I looked for objects that might connect me to a memory, or an emotion. I chose objects based on an active dialogue between mind and object. Often, collecting the objects that speak to me leaves me with an eclectic collection of “bells and whistles,” with which to build shrines. The vintage and thrift movement relies on this same nostalgia for the past, or at least a reliance on the past, in the same way that bohemians did, often appropriating styles that were no longer relevant to mainstream society, and re-interpreting them as part of their own context. This project is an indulgence into obscuring the aesthetic of a cultural movement that both inspires and entices me.

## The Visual Interpretation by **CR Rousseau, Abstract Artist**

Inspired by the modern bohemians of Lovett’s work, I let the textures and colors speak for themselves in this composition. As one of the top fashion designers to emerge from Central Saint Martins in 2023, it’s clear why his work is gaining attention in New York, Paris, and London.

I find his shapes to be both fun and fabulous, with one foot in the future and one foot in history. The eccentric parallels between free-flowing lines and firmly formed structures create a delightful paradox. The colors are bright and cheerful, and the lines are simple and playful. Overall, I hope to convey an impression of innocence on a whimsical journey.

The stylized snake and modern rabbit shapes are in harmonious colors, but their strong symbolic contrast and their personalities, draw the eye throughout the composition. The sea of padded blue provides a perfect semi-neutral backdrop, anchored by gauzy ribbons and frilly lace reminiscent of an Elizabethan ruff. On the left, stems of an abstract bouquet of flowers sway in tandem with the swirl of a pink serpent's shape. Translucent drops drip, like those found on Carson's ensemble, creating a natural chandelier in the painting.

The abstract elements all come together in a playful visual journey that evokes a carefree spirit similar to that of Carson's graduate collection.