

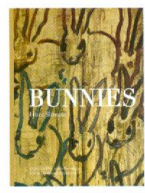


the world according to . . .

HUNT SLONEM

AVENUE's back-page column asks New York notables our version of the questionnaire made famous by Marcel Proust

Modern-day bon vivant and antiques enthusiast Hunt Slonem is an American painter, sculptor and printmaker from Louisiana. His work has been exhibited in more than 350 galleries and museums worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Known for his illustrious depictions of some of nature's friendliest creatures, Slonem says he awakes every day and performs his "daily warm-ups," painting rabbits on a series of small rectangular panels made of wood or Masonite. Each work encompasses a Post-expressionist narrative. A collection of these paintings is presented for the first time in his newly published book, *Bunnies* (Glitterati Incorporated). Here, the colorful artist, who divides his time between his two plantations in Louisiana and his art studio in New York, talks about his New York state of mind.



WHERE DO YOU GO TO BE INSPIRED IN NEW YORK? OR WHAT NEW YORK BUILDING/INTERIOR INSPIRES YOU THE MOST? I would have to say that the major portion of my inspiration comes from within my own studio, I also go to the Metropolitan Museum to get inspired.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN? Not to listen to anyone!

WHAT'S YOUR MOTTO? Well I have a few, but just to persist and never give up, and paint through it all!

19th century Southern portraits. Oh, and I collect houses. Let's stop there; I could go on! [laughs.]

Anne Slater

Amy Fine Collins



BEST MEAL YOU'VE HAD IN NEW YORK CITY? I've had some pretty good meals at Daniel recently, but I find almost every meal in New York unforgettable. . . I think we have standards.



WHO IS THE MOST STYLISH NEW YORKER YOU KNOW? Just off the top of my head, Anne Slater and Amy Fine Collins.

IF YOUR APARTMENT WERE ON FIRE, WHICH THREE THINGS WOULD YOU RESCUE? I'd try to rescue all of my beautiful birds.

WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF NEW YORK CITY? Painting and my animals and my birds.

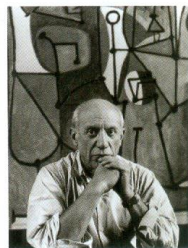
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NEW YORK CITY CLICHÉ? LEAST FAVORITE? "Let's have lunch," which means you'll probably never see them again. "Just thinking of you" or "You're on the top of my list for people to call."

IF YOU WEREN'T AN ARTIST, WHAT WOULD YOU BE? [Laughs.] I probably wouldn't be alive; I can't imagine not being an artist, I would be very unfulfilled!

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE DINNER PARTNER? Kip Forbes; just because I had dinner with him twice recently.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? Young and beautiful and me! ♦

WHERE IS PARADISE FOR YOU? On one of my plantations, specifically in Batchelor, Louisiana. It is the closest thing to paradise for me.



WHAT DO YOU COLLECT? A very wide range. I collect John Henry Belter and Gothic revival furniture, particularly in the period of 1798–1860. I also collect Old Paris porcelain, marble busts and columns, and I don't know if "collecting birds" is the right term, but I save unwanted birds. I collect plants, I collect

