

Stuff on a Shelf

- Still-life Paintings by Peter J. O'Halloran

You may recognize a vase from Flowers.com or a salt shaker from your youth, but this collection of Goodwill objects is not about storytelling (supplies to make a favorite kitchen recipe), or nostalgia (old things that still give us the warm fuzzies). Most of these objects are dirty, chipped, scratched, mass-produced junk, but, I'm certainly not interested in depicting gritty realism, either. The whole setting

has been cleaned up. Labels are hidden, imperfections removed, forms simplified, in a word: *idealized*. I want to believe in a place where there's a reason for everything, accidents don't happen, where everything works out in the end. This is my way of showing that place to you.

Peter J. O'Halloran
-2016



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Cobalt Courante

Oil on Canvas

24" X 36"

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Moonstone Morris

Oil on Canvas

18" X 24"

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Brunswick Bossa Nova

Oil on Canvas

24" X 36"

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Cinnabar Samba

Oil on Canvas

22" X 18"

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Whiskey Jug Toccata

Oil on Canvas

46" X 46"

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Kiss Etude
Oil on Canvas
15" X 16"

Passageway Etude
Oil on Canvas
15" X 16"

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Harlequin Habanera

Oil on Canvas

36" X 48"

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Rondo in Grays

Oil on Canvas

16" X 20"



Full Cup Cantata

Oil on Canvas

16" X 20"

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Olivine Beguine

Oil on Canvas
24" X 18"

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Mallow Mazurka

Oil on Canvas

24" X 32"

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Turquoise Tango

Oil on Canvas

24" X 32"

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Lipstick Symphony

Oil on Canvas

24" X 36"

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Ube Juba

Oil on Canvas

18" X 24"

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Russet Rumba

Oil on Canvas

24" X 36"

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Marigold Minuet

Oil on Canvas

24" X 36"

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October Divertimento

Oil on Canvas

16" X 12"



Opposites Octet

Oil on Canvas

16" X 20"

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Cordovan Cabriole

Oil on Canvas

24" X 36"

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Byzantium Bourree

Oil on Canvas

24" X 36"

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Wenge Waltz

Oil on Canvas
18" X 22"

Stuff on a Shelf

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Congo Conga

Oil on Canvas

46" X 46"

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Zaffre Zambre

Oil on Canvas

46" X 46"

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Kombu Cakewalk

Oil on Canvas

36" X 48"

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Sinopian Sonata

Oil on Canvas
36" X 48"

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Rosso Corsa Reel

Oil on Canvas

36" X 48"

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Translucent Toccata

Oil on Canvas

16" X 20"



Cerulean Concerto

Oil on Canvas

16" X 20"

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Blue Bottle Impromptu

Oil on Canvas

16" X 20"



Fulvous Foxtrot

Oil on Canvas

16" X 20"

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Aureolin Allemande

Oil on Canvas

18" X 24"

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Arch Etude

Oil on Canvas
18" X 24"

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Discordant Divertimento

Oil on Canvas

18" X 24"

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Tawny Two-Step

Oil on Canvas

24" X 32"

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Mountbatten March

Oil on Canvas

18" X 24"

Stuff on a Shelf

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Coquelicot Kolo

Oil on Canvas

30" X 40"

Stuff on a Shelf

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Mahogany Minuet

Oil on Canvas
18" X 22"

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Majorelle Mamba

Oil on Canvas

18" X 24"

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Cadmiium Can-Can

Oil on Canvas

36" X 36"

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I begin by putting a group of “dancers” on my “stage,” and look to see what happens. I’m sliding objects around as relationships form between their shapes, colors, angles, curves, weights, and textures. Think of it as choreography frozen at a peak moment. When I look at the flow of objects from left to right, I’m also reminded of a melody line – each painting with its own notes, rhythms, and intervals. Each object representing the tonality of a different instrument, from loud and brassy, to bass booms, to high-pitched squeaks, even a few silent moments. This interpretation inspired the use of a dance or music form in the title, coupled with a color name. The two usually share

a common first letter (alliteration), or rhyme. Certainly, many of these will be unfamiliar to you, as they were for me. A quick web search, for example, will show that Harlequin is an intense green-yellow and Habanera is a slow, seductive dance from Cuba.

In addition to the relationships that develop by moving things around, I am also forcing an additional kind of order on the group. If several objects are almost the same height, I will paint them exactly the same. Objects are often aligned with major divisions of the canvas: one-third from the edge, directly in the center, or maybe a height

that is a third or fourth from the top. The side edge of an object will often exactly intersect the axis of the adjacent object. I’ve also removed perspective from the objects, so that their tops and bottoms are straight across. Not only does this emphasize the geometry of their shapes, it also allows their straight-edged tops to visually connect with others their same height, creating implied horizontal lines across the canvas. Finally, I’m aligning objects in a way that uses negative spaces and edge connections to give contradictory information about the relative location of things.

<i>Full Cup Cantata</i>	16x20	oil on canvas	1,750
<i>Rondo in Grays</i>	16x20	oil on canvas	1,750
<i>Blue Bottle Impromptu</i>	16x20	oil on canvas	1,750
<i>Cerulean Concerto</i>	16x20	oil on canvas	1,750
<i>Opposites Octet</i>	16x20	oil on canvas	1,750
<i>Translucent Toccata</i>	16x20	oil on canvas	1,750
<i>Kiss Etude</i>	15x16	oil on canvas	1,500
<i>October Divertimento</i>	16x12	oil on canvas	1,300
<i>Discordant Divertimento</i>	18x24	oil on canvas	2,000
<i>Arch Etude</i>	18x24	oil on canvas	2,000
<i>Passageway Etude</i>	15x16	oil on canvas	1,500
<i>Whiskey Jug Toccata</i>	46x46	oil on canvas	7,500
<i>Lipstick Symphony</i>	24x36	oil on canvas	3,500
<i>Moonstone Morris</i>	18x24	oil on canvas	2,000
<i>Cinnabar Samba</i>	22x18	oil on canvas	2,000
<i>Fulvous Foxtrot</i>	16x20	oil on canvas	1,750
<i>Ube Juba</i>	18x24	oil on board	2,000
<i>Majorelle Mamba</i>	18x24	oil on board	2,000
<i>Wenge Waltz</i>	18x22	oil on canvas	2,000
<i>Mahogany Minuet</i>	18x22	oil on canvas	2,000

<i>Mountbatten March</i>	18x24	oil on board	2,000
<i>Olivine Beguine</i>	24x18	oil on board	2,000
<i>Aureolin Allemande</i>	18x22	oil on canvas	2,000
<i>Turquoise Tango</i>	24x32	oil on canvas	3,000
<i>Byzantium Bourree</i>	24x36	oil on canvas	3,500
<i>Cordovan Cabriole</i>	24x36	oil on canvas	3,500
<i>Marigold Minuet</i>	24x36	oil on canvas	3,500
<i>Russet Rumba</i>	24x36	oil on canvas	3,500
<i>Mallow Mazurka</i>	24x32	oil on canvas	3,000
<i>Cobalt Courante</i>	24x36	oil on canvas	3,500
<i>Brunswick Bossa Nova</i>	24x36	oil on canvas	3,500
<i>Tawny Two-Step</i>	24x32	oil on canvas	3,000
<i>Coquelicot Kolo</i>	30x40	oil on canvas	5,000
<i>Cadmium Can-Can</i>	36x36	oil on canvas	4,500
<i>Kombu Cakewalk</i>	36x48	oil on canvas	6,500
<i>Rosso Corsa Reel</i>	36x48	oil on canvas	6,500
<i>Sinopian Sonata</i>	36x48	oil on canvas	6,500
<i>Harlequin Habanera</i>	36x48	oil on canvas	6,500
<i>Zaffre Zambre</i>	46x46	oil on canvas	7,500
<i>Congo Conga</i>	46x46	oil on canvas	7,500