

Rodney W. Nichols

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special assistant for research and technology in the Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense and was awarded the Distinguished Defense Medal for Distinguished Meritorious Civilian Service.

Cofounder of two other books and the author of many articles on policy for both civilian and defense science and technology, Nichols has served as an adviser to the White House Science and Technology Office, the State and Defense departments, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the New York State Urban Development Corporation and the New York State Telecommunications Task Force. He has represented the U.S. government in international negotiations on arms control and in multilateral S&T conferences with developing countries. He has also worked with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academies of Science and Engineering, the United Nations, RAND, the Library of Congress, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and industry and private foundations.

Nichols is a member of the American Physical Society, the Council on Foreign Relations and Sigma Xi and was elected a fellow of the AAAS. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology, and Government and of the Technical Advisory Board to the Edwin A. Link Foundation, and he is a trustee of the American University of Beirut, the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Florida and the American Society for Macro-Engineering. ♦



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2388 年: Connecting Vocabularies

Exhibition by Stefan Umaerus / May 14 to June 30

Addressing a future 400 years from the present, much like an alchemist, Stefan Umaerus has created a poetic visualization of connecting worlds and melded vocabularies told in painting, poetry and reportage. And it is an eloquent elixir.

The amalgamation began when Umaerus arrived in the People's Republic of China in 1988, having spent part of the previous year in the Marais, a seventeenth-century district of Paris, exhibiting at Le Centre Cultural Suédois with a show called Epsilon Lyrae. Inspired, he journeyed across the former U.S.S.R. by Trans-Siberian Railroad to spend one year as a student of Chinese language and culture at the Beijing Foreign Studies University.

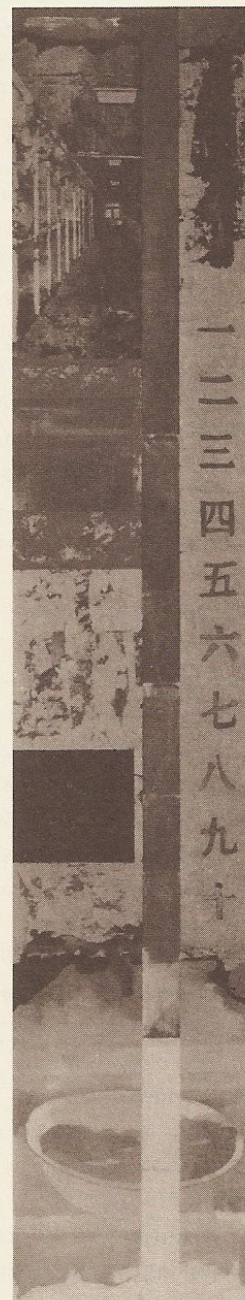
Witness to the events of Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989, using the methodology of an observer in taking thousands of photographs and infusing poetry, with his Western point of view he has rendered a sharp focus on those absorbing images.

Umaerus's sudden forced departure and his eventual arrival in New York resulted in a potent aesthetic, while encompassing subtle references to astronomy, geology and historical pasts in lyrical interpretation.

In an allegorical preview of the transmuted future, Umaerus revives the premise of the seven arts and the seven virtues from the seventeenth-century French court painting series *La Galerie de Phaeton* by Sebastien Bourdon. Umaerus's creation of fourteen canvas panels measuring 107 inches by 20 inches each is a contemporary People's Republic rendition that blends the everyday chill of the period with the exquisite in suspended mirrorlike fragments.

Tones of transparent soot-black and brilliant blue gouaches are fired with shimmering inlays that upon close examination are found to be copperleaf on oil and acrylics. The American critic Annie Markovich writes of *2388 年: Connecting Vocabularies*, in a current review for *Paletten*, a Swedish art magazine, "The development of an idea and experience into a technical exhibition of this quality is a tour de force today not only in terms of its social and political significance—something Americans are too naïve about—but also in view of art history and aesthetic concerns."

Stefan Umaerus was born in 1951 in Sweden, and he was educated at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Stockholm. His most recent one-man shows took place in Sweden in 1991, Caracas in 1990 and Paris in 1987. He has also exhibited in a number of group shows in New York and Sweden. In New York Umaerus is represented by Chely Depablos. This project has been partially funded by a grant from Sveriges Bildkonstnärnsfond. Umaerus's works are included in the permanent collections of the National and the Modern Museums of Stockholm.



Stefan Umaerus,
L'Arithmetique, 1991

MADELAINE NETTER