



Simon Dinnerstein, *Night Scene I*, 1982, conté crayon, colored pencil, 41 1/4 x 29 1/4"
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C., gift of the Sara Roby Foundation



Simon Dinnerstein, *Night Scene II*, 1983, conté crayon, colored pencil, pastel, 30 3/8 x 39 1/8"
Ellen Mitchell McLean, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas

Exhibiting widely in the United States and Europe, **Simon Dinnerstein** has had seventeen one-man exhibitions. He lived in Germany for a year on a Fulbright Fellowship and in Italy at the American Academy in Rome for two and a half years as a recipient of a Rome Prize. Other awards for his art include a Louis Comfort Tiffany Grant, the Ingram Merrill Award for Painting, a New York State Foundation for the Arts Grant, three Childe Hassam Purchase Awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and two McDowell Colony fellowships. In 1999-2000, a retrospective of his work toured the country sponsored, in part, by a grant from the Robert Lehman Foundation.

Two monographs, *The Art of Simon Dinnerstein*, University of Arkansas Press and *Simon Dinnerstein: Paintings and Drawings*, Hudson Hills Press, have been published on the artist's work. In the first monograph, George Tooker, the noted American artist wrote, "Simon Dinnerstein paints with a reverence for life that is rare. The radiance of his light can transform reality into a presence that is essential, mythic, and dreamlike."

Mr. Dinnerstein studied at the City College of New York and the Brooklyn Museum Art School. Born in Brooklyn, the artist presently resides in that borough's Park Slope section with his wife, Renée, a highly respected early childhood teacher and educational consultant. He is a member of the National Academy of Design and is represented in New York by ACA Galleries.

ghosts in The Dream Machine

For Piano Quintet (2005)

by gabriela Lena Frank
inspired by the art of simon Dinnerstein



photo: Christian Steiner

performed by the chiara string quartet and
pianist simone Dinnerstein

movement II: night scenes

Ghosts in the Dream Machine for piano quintet derives its inspiration from the creative mind of Simon Dinnerstein. I find his artwork to be fantastically evocative, casting ordinary subjects in a decidedly unordinary light. Simon accesses that imaginative spirit tucked away in the recesses of our dream world, and the recurring themes of mystery, night, and wonder are what drive this quintet. Originally, I held Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* as a blueprint. As a musical work, it likewise finds inspiration in artwork and as a result, encompasses many short and rather direct movements. I worked a good while with this model... to no avail. In subsequently looking at the drawings that inspired Mussorgsky, I was able to identify my conundrum: Mussorgsky's pictures of Russian daily life are straightforward and pictorial. Two old men. An oxcart. Chicks playing. On the other hand, Simon's work is complex and even elusive without being coy, much like a dream. One minute, it is serene. The next, highly disturbing. This chimera-like quality cries for music that is psychologically rich, and in reworking my initial ideas, I found that a two-movement work encompassing large dimensions and focusing intensely on mood and color was more fitting than a collection of miniatures dancing lightly over multiple themes. In this way, I hope to have succeeded in musically rendering the potency of Simon's art.

Gabriela Lena Frank
March 14, 2005

The newest and youngest addition to publisher G. Schirmer's prestigious roster of artists, **Gabriela Lena Frank** has been hailed as representing "the next generation of American composers." Her compositions incorporating South American mythology, art, poetry, and folk music into western classical forms reflect her Peruvian-Jewish heritage and have been described as works of "honesty and genius" (Springfield Union-News) and "unself-conscious craft and mastery" (Washington Post). Past and future collaborations are with the Brentano, Chiara, Kronos, and Muir String Quartets; and the symphony orchestras of Albany, Berkeley, California, Florida, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Utah. Born in Berkeley, CA in 1972, Gabriela is internationally awarded, recorded, and performed.

Since its founding in 1991, **Astral Artistic Services** has played a unique and vital role in the development of the nation's most gifted young musicians. A Philadelphia-based, non-profit organization, Astral's mission is: to discover the most promising classical musicians residing in the United States, assist their early professional career development and present their world-class artistry to the community through concerts, and outreach programs...all at no cost to the artists.

Ghosts in the Dream Machine was commissioned by Astral from composer Gabriela Frank for the Chiara String Quartet and pianist Simone Dinnerstein with special funding generously provided by The Presser Foundation for the world premiere on Astral's concert series, April 10, 2005. The performers are all Astral artists.



Simon Dinnerstein, *Nocturne*, 1982, conté crayon, 29 1/2 x 43 7/8"
Lucy Nurkse, Brooklyn, New York

Movement I: Nocturne-Sonatina

The **Chiara String Quartet** (Rebecca Fischer and Julie Yoon, violins; Jonah Sirota, viola; and Gregory Beaver, cello) is at the forefront of a new generation of exceptional American quartets. Awarded the 2003-2005 Lisa Arnholt Residency at the Juilliard School, the quartet also won First Prize at the 2002 Fischhoff Competition, Second Prize at the 2002 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, and in the same year won the Astral Artistic Services National Auditions, placing it on the Astral roster of outstanding young artists launching major professional careers. Highlights of the 2004-2005 season include New York concerts at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Columbia University's Miller Theatre, as well as performances across the United States and in Europe. Tim Smith of *The Baltimore Sun* says of the group, "...the award-winning foursome clearly has what it takes to make a lasting mark in the chamber music world."

The Chiara is well known both as an interpreter of the established quartet repertoire, and as a champion of great new pieces from today's most interesting composers. The quartet will inaugurate *New Voice Singles* in the fall of 2004 with a series of world premiere CD single recordings. Committed as teachers as well as performers, the members of the Chiara mentor the next generation of gifted musicians through their teaching at Juilliard, Greenwood, Chamber Music at Snowmass, and at their new summer festival, *Red River Chamber Music* in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Chiara [key-ARE-uh] is an Italian word, meaning clear, pure, or light.



Simon Dinnerstein, *Sonatina*, 1981, conté crayon, 26 1/2 x 40 1/2"
Elyse Vitiello, New York, New York

Simone Dinnerstein has given recitals and appeared as a concerto soloist across the United States, in Europe and in South America. She is active both as a soloist and as a chamber musician. Highlights of this season include solo and chamber music performances at the Bard Music Festival, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Weill Recital Hall, and the La Jolla Music Festival. Artists with whom she has recently collaborated include cellists Zuill Bailey and Jan Vogler, the Chiara Quartet, clarinetist Jose Franch-Ballester and violinists Anne Akiko Myers and Mira Wang.

Ms. Dinnerstein's recordings include a recital with cellist Zuill Bailey for the Delos label, Mendelssohn's complete works for cello and piano and Beethoven's complete sonatas for cello and piano, both recorded with Simca Heled and issued on the Danish label Classico. March of 2005 she recorded Bach's Goldberg Variations, which is awaiting release, and in the Fall of 2005 she will be recording Beethoven's complete works for piano and cello with Zuill Bailey.

Ms. Dinnerstein is a graduate of the Juilliard School where she was a student of Peter Serkin. She also studied with Maria Curcio Diamond in London and with Solomon Mikowsky at the Manhattan School of Music. Ms. Dinnerstein is a winner of the Astral Artistic Services' National Auditions, placing her on a roster of outstanding artists on the brink of launching major professional careers.