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## Crossing Boundaries: A Conversation with Artist Slawomir Elsner

July 19th, 2011 11:30 pm in [Art](#), [Art & Culture](#) by [Anna M. Antoniak](#) - [No Comment Yet](#)



[Slawomir Elsner's](#) painting exhibit, *Collecting Images*, will be on display at the [Marc Jancou Contemporary gallery](#) (524 West 24 Street NYC) through July 29. A stirring exhibit about tradition, new trends, and seeing things that aren't there, *Images* presents a balance and play between nostalgia and provocation that is hard to resist.

Born in 1976 in Wodzislaw, Poland, Elsner moved to Germany with his family as a child. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kassel from 1995-2002, and now lives and works in Berlin as a painter, illustrator, and photographer. His paintings and drawings are often

based on his own photographs, and presented in series format. Elsner's work has been exhibited widely throughout Europe, including a popular exhibit called *Seven Rooms in Grandfather's House* in 2000 based on photographs inspired by illustrations of [Hans Christian Andersen's](#) fairy tales. According to a press release issued by the Marc Jancou Contemporary gallery, Elsner was more recently the subject of a solo exhibition, "Paris – Berlin – Warszawa," at the Polish Institute in Berlin, and was included in a group exhibition at the [Museum Folkwang](#), Essen honoring past recipients of the prestigious Kunsthaus Essen scholarship.

GALO's Anna Antoniak spoke with the artist about his current projects, and more personally, his connection to Poland and Germany.

**GALO:** *How would you explain the *Collecting Images* exhibit in a sentence or two?*

**Slawomir Elsner:** I'd have to pose the question back to you. I created the pieces, but the commentary, I leave to the audience.

**GALO:** *Is there a sequence in which you painted the pieces in this exhibit?*

**SE:** There's no significant sequence. I worked on the drawings and painting simultaneously.

**GALO:** *How do you relate the batch in one room to the grouping in the other?*

**SE:** There isn't a necessary connection, and yet one exists due to the lack of a central image. This very absence is what brings a new image into existence.

**GALO:** *Is there a direct root of inspiration for it?*

**SE:** Modern life, works that might inspire sensitivity to our surroundings.

**GALO:** *Time Out New York described your Collecting Images exhibit as "kid-friendly." Would you agree?*

**SE:** Why wouldn't I?

**GALO:** *Is there a city you haven't exhibited yet where you would like to? Why?*

**SE:** Every city is unique in its own way and can be a special place.

*(Article continued on next page)*

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