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par Patricia Valicenti

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Vibrant Voyages

The Parisian Polad-Hardouin gallery is showcasing spectacular works by the British-born artist Orlando Mostyn Owen. Strangely magnificent characters and themes emerge from his paintings, staring boldly out at the spectator. These new works by this promising contemporary artist, brought together under the title Back door Arcadia, wander through the history of the world. In his landscapes and portrayals a blend of vestiges of the past and visions of the present co-exist. He presents worlds seemingly on the verge of chaos. The Minotaur, splendid and ridiculous at the same time, represents antiquity. His Ariane is more of a frivolous working class girl rather than a muse. In his paintings the world waivers between sensuality, mystery and irony. (p. 38)