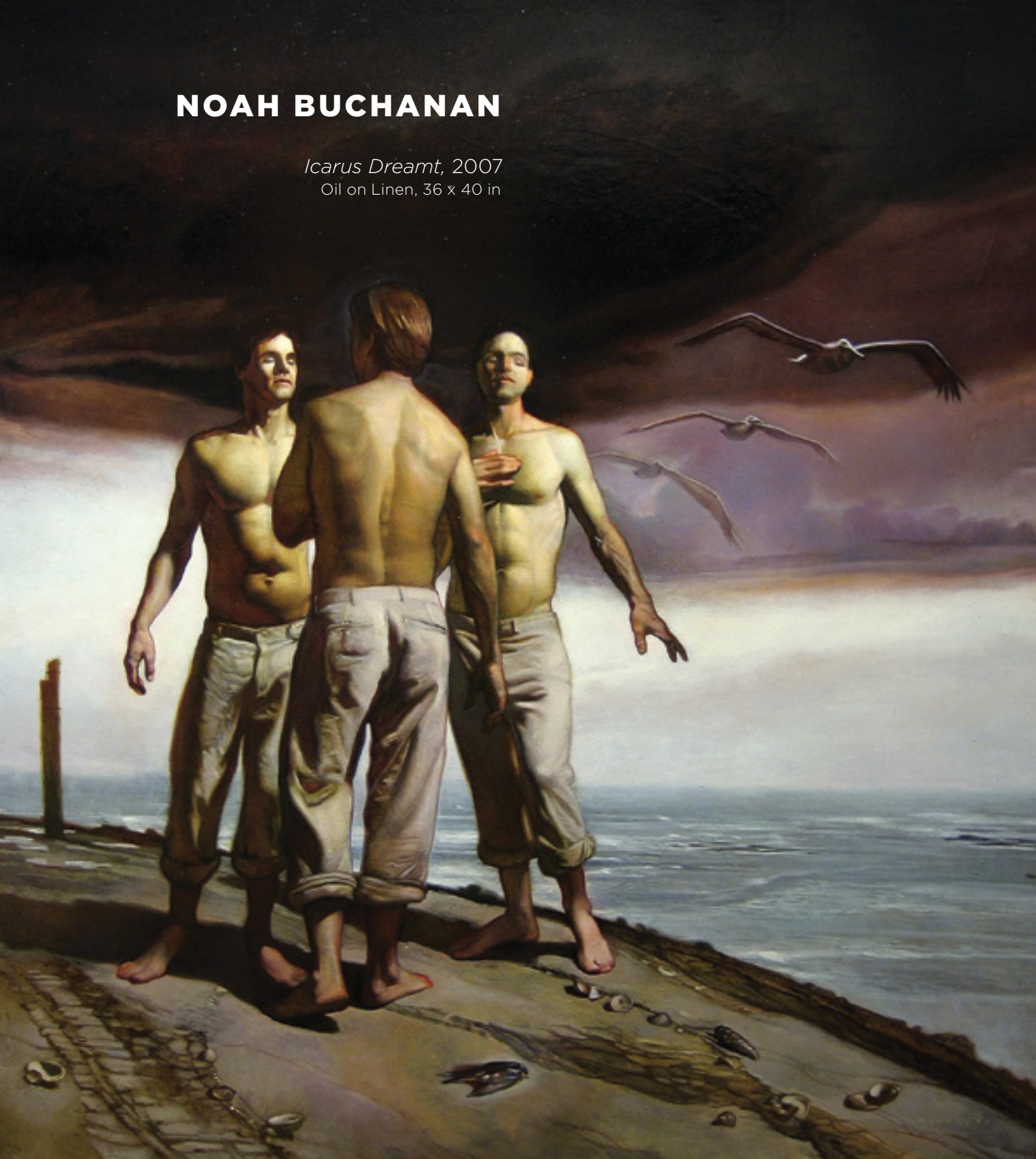


NOAH BUCHANAN

Icarus Dreamt, 2007
Oil on Linen, 36 x 40 in



COURTESY: THE ARTIST

ANTHONY DETRO

Badfish

Downtown Santa Cruz in the early nineties was fun: even more so in the summertime towards late August, when you still had a lot of tourists roaming around and all the out-of-town college kids were flooding back into town and getting settled in to begin the fall semester. Most of them frolicking and feigning poverty while secretly spending Mom and Dad's money on expensive weed, microbrews, and the A.M. ritual of hummus, bagels, and gourmet coffee.

On the upside?

Jerry Garcia was still alive and performing shows with the Dead.

On the downside?

Kurt Loder had reported on MTV News the previous April how Kurt Cobain had pumped himself full of heroin in up in Seattle and scribbled a note comparing himself to Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison, then commenced to blowing his brains out all over his garden: *All in all is all we are*.

It wasn't all bad, though. Pearl Jam was still at the top of its game after "Jeremy" had spoken loud and clear a couple of years prior. People were still drinking gin and juice with Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg; Chronic still stuck in most people's cassette decks. The punk rock scene was still alive and well—D.I., Agent Orange, Suicidal Tendencies, and Bad Religion were all still touring and stopping through town. And while NOFX, Pennywise, and Good Riddance were establishing themselves as the voice of the next generation, glow sticks, baby binkies, and Dr. Seuss hats and house music were all the rage among the pale, hairy-chested yuppie crowd. And the city known for its world-class surf breaks, and for having played a major role in putting professional skateboarding on the map over the past couple of decades, still only had a single sorry excuse for a skatepark. Five years after the Loma Prieta earthquake shook things up, damaging several buildings to the point that many of them had to be demolished, there were still several prime lots which had yet to be rebuilt on. Including the one at the corner of Cooper Street and Pacific Avenue where the old Cooper House once stood, in the heart of downtown. Opening in 1894, the Cooper House served as the county courthouse for several decades. And from the 1970s up until the earthquake in 1989, it had passed through several owners, transforming into a