

RECENT SERIES:*Sleeping Presidents* (2012)*Mathew Brady's Dream Book* (2010)*Ransoming Mathew Brady* (2009)*The Little Painter* (2008)*Beyond Nature* (2006)*Book of the Dead* (2005)*Bed as Autobiography* (2004)*My Father is his Buick* (2003)*Heaven* (2001)*Famous People's Body Parts* (2000)**WEB:**ransomart.netamericandreambook.netwheniamhere.net

JOHN RANSOM PHILLIPS' approach to painting is not easily categorized, which is something that he prefers, having always sought to create his own path. Occupying both figurative and abstract dimensions, Phillips' work draws the viewer close, with its vivid colors and complex spaces, and then slowly reveals its many meanings.

"What is real to me," says Phillips, "is what is concrete and immediate. My consciousness reveals images and patterns of behavior; while my memories and dreams provide me with maps of my unconsciousness—they reveal that I have lived many times before this life, and will do so again. '*What I assume, you shall assume*' becomes the ground for going forth." Phillips' work, if studied chronologically, reveals the various stages in discovering oneself by way of 'ransoming' an old identity, as he puts it, in order to move on to a new one.

Jonathan Goodman, contributing editor at ArtCritical Magazine has said: '[Phillips]' sense of appropriation is powerfully imaginative—the artist aims to reenact the existence of someone from another life—much as Cindy Sherman does in her famous film stills...The relationship between author and mediator is deliberately complex, so that it is hard to say whether it is Phillips himself or his assumed persona that is the subject of the works before us."

John Ransom Phillips lives and works in New York City and Old Chatham, New York. His work has been exhibited at galleries in many of the major art centers around the world: New York, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Paris, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, São Paulo and Cairo. His paintings and watercolors are in major public and corporate collections including Bank of America, Toyota, PLM Corporation, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Phillips Collection in Washington DC, the Albany Institute of History and Art, and the Smart Museum of Art in Chicago.