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# The Philadelphia Inquirer

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## art

MUSEUMS • GALLERIES

### Let the viewer beware

Supposedly the Vietnam War got Dick Morrill started painting politically charged images that for the New York artist confirmed his mission of questioning authority. He's been on that road ever since, producing complex narrative paintings about such subjects as Wall Street greed and the role of media in modern life. His larger-than-life portraits from the 1990s amplified that message while addressing the social self/private self. Any doubts I had about such work before seeing it were dispelled by viewing Morrill's current traveling show "Narratives & Portraits" at Rosemont College's Lawrence Gallery.

This work must be taken seriously; humanity is on the line. Colors, some bright, are more often harsh, menacing, and sensual. I think Morrill is telling us that unless art recovers its sense of the seriousness of what's human, and of its own dire condition, art will subside into irrelevance.



Dick Morrill's "Ship of Fools," oil on canvas, in his traveling show "Narratives & Portraits" at Rosemont College.

Rosemont College's Lawrence Gallery. To April 13. Mon-Fri 9-8. 610-526-2967.

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Review by Victoria Donahoe