

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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Bob Dylan's paintings to be exhibited in New York

The Asia Series will include works created by the singer on his recent trip to Japan, China, Vietnam and South Korea

Michael Hann | Friday September 9, 2011



Another side of Bob Dylan ... Singer's paintings to be displayed in New York. Photograph: Liu Jin/AFP/Getty Images

Dylanologists will get a fresh chance to pore over clues to the motivations and mentality of their hero later this month, when an exhibition of Bob Dylan's drawings and paintings will open at the Gagosian Gallery in New York. The exhibition will include works created on trips to Japan, China, Vietnam and South Korea. The gallery announced The Asia Series will include "first-hand depictions of people, street scenes, architecture and landscape ... Conversely, there are more cryptic paintings often of personalities and situations, such as Big Brother and Opium, or LeBelle Cascade, which looks like a riff on Manet's *Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe* but is, in fact, a scenographic tourist photo-opportunity in a Tokyo amusement arcade."

Expect Dylan websites to be buzzing with analysis of the paintings once the exhibition opens on 20 September: Dylan fans are famed for their minute analysis of any and everything the singer says or does. Or, in this case, paints.

Dylan toured Asia in the spring, controversially allowing his setlists to be vetted by authorities in China and Vietnam. It is not known whether any of the paintings will show the half-empty hall he played to in Ho Chi Minh City.

Dylan might be well advised to remember the first time one of his paintings reached a wide audience – the self-portrait that adorned the cover of his album *Self Portrait*. Greil Marcus began his review of the album for *Rolling Stone* magazine with the words: "What is this shit?" He was referring to the music, rather than the painting, however.