

ERNEST CONCEPCION

### **Artist Statement**

From an incoming clash of titanic bugs over a serene landscape, to an invasion of legged Spanish galleons on coastal waters, to a battle of mounted pterodactyls and zeppelins over a Canadian national park, these images make up the alternate universes that I am currently exploring in my paintings.

These new works evolved from *The Line Wars*, a series of over 100 black and white drawings depicting opposing forces engaged in ridiculous battle. The images are based on the entertainments of childhood and adolescence: Video games, action figures, strategy board games--always two forces opposing one another. The series is a celebration of making impulsive, nonchalant drawings, as well as a personal journey into nostalgia and an homage to geekdom. As the genesis of my conflict-ridden works, the formulaic style of the drawings is challenged and built upon with an entirely different approach to conflict. The paintings convey more narrative elements, depth and perspective as opposed to the flat, linear imagery of *The Line Wars*.

I use conventions of painting like photorealism and landscape but employ the concepts of war on the process of painting itself. I attack my own paintings by adding fantastical elements onto historical imagery or strategically invade my landscapes by drawing armies on the surface following its topographical formations, eventually turning tranquil natural sceneries into potential battlefields.

Attack!