In 2017, Jonas Wood appeared as the featured artist at the 19th annual Two x Two for AIDS and Art, which raised $7.3 million at the Rachofsky house in Dallas. Five hundred people attended the sold-out, black-tie event, where a single piece by Wood sold for $1.2 million.

So, who is Jonas Wood? Well, according to The New York Times, he's "a Massachusetts-born painter known for bucolic David Hockney-esque still-life interiors and abstract depictions of sport."

Wood is all about bold colors and embracing his personal universe, which extends to placing family members in prominent positions in his work. Those in Dallas will soon get a glimpse at Wood's oeuvre, which is all about psychology and memory and the artist's private life, whose fascinations range from the world's greatest painters to the world's greatest athletes.

The Dallas Museum of Art is presenting 35 paintings by Wood in his first major solo exhibition, which opens March 24. That alone should be enough to excite those who revel in Woods' refreshingly original work: His first major solo exhibition.

Just one work on view will be Robin and Ptolemy, which took a daunting 13 years to create. Having been described as "wild-bearded and wild-eyed," Wood inspires, at least in some of us, a sense of envy: He's a major collector, of both fine art and sports memorabilia, who has a signed Larry Bird jersey hanging from the rafters of his studio. "I'm a huge NBA fan," he says. Well, since he's coming to Dallas, maybe the Mavericks can arrange for Wood to hang out a bit with Luka Dončić and Dirk Nowitzki.

- Michael Granberry

Jonas Wood, *Sears Family Portrait*, 2011, oil and acrylic on linen, 44 x 32 in., private collection, courtesy the artist and Anton Kern Gallery, New York. (Thomas Muller)