

ARTIST FEATURE

Asencio

the intuition and impact of figurative painting



“Resolution” Fine Art Limited Edition, 15” x 20”

The figurative art genre is by far one of the most intriguing in the art world. With a rich history dating back to the very beginning of human existence, figurative paintings have been highly sought after by every culture and civilization. Perhaps it’s because we relate to figurative art. The form, emotion, and beauty, speaks to our humanity. We can identify on many different levels with our own species.

Although both the male and female have been celebrated throughout history, the male figure is unique in that it has been traditionally personified as a political, religious and moral symbol. The male figure is also typically public: he is depicted in city squares, guards’ public buildings, and is worshipped in the church. On the other hand, the female figure has been characteristically celebrated in art as the highest ideal of beauty, purity and inspiration. Within the figurative genre, the depiction of the female form is much more common than that of the male.

Contemporary painter Henry Asencio is acclaimed for his exquisitely beautiful and introspective renderings of the female figure. His artwork is noted for its sensual vitality that is striking and simple – and his art “sustains its integrity through the subtleties.” In each of his paintings, Asencio portrays women with dignity and an aura of mystery.

The relationship between the artist himself, and the model he paints, is almost as impacting as the viewer and the work of art. Asencio has an intuitive ability to extract the inner spirit of the figure he works with – be it male or female. While he is typi-

cally known for his masterful paintings of women, Asencio's talents are far reaching. In fact, his most recent artwork has shifted to depict the male figure instead.

"In painting both male and female imagery, my hope is to heighten your interest not only in my art, but in the beauty of the human figure and how it inevitably displays our spirit without failure. I wish to share with you my philosophy, reaction and passion for life, by recognizing the beauty of not only the flesh, but in the paint, and of the suspended mark of the stroke. I want to encompass the duality of life, by always fighting to keep that balance in my work from tangible to the intangible, from the hard to the soft, from the serene to the chaotic...looking to the dramatic as well as the subtle for inspiration. I am constantly challenging myself and pushing my craft further and extending the branches of all the tangents I find my impulses creating."

Take away science and biology, enter the human spirit, and we find a miraculous (albeit mysterious) phenomenon of the artist's creation. Although his paintings of the male figure are clearly defined by strength and nobility – the essence of vulnerability still rings true. Notice the chiseled form and the determined stance, but amidst that masculinity – we also discover a sensitivity that is relatable.

This creative genius is Asencio. His paintings share the complexities of the human existence—solace in the midst of chaos, male and female, yin and yang — these complementary opposites are at the very core of life and existence. Within Asencio's art there is one form and that is the expression of emotion. His abstract expressionism is not about telling a story, but determined to evoke a response from the viewer. In this, he seeks to push to the next level of creativity and inspire others to do the same.



"Captivation" Original Oil on Canvas, 30" x 40"

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