

PA

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FIFTY GREAT FIGURATIVE ARTWORKS 2017

Curated by STEVEN DALUZ



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Tina Spratt
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FIFTY GREAT FIGURATIVE ARTWORKS 2017

Steven DaLuz

This issue considers the human figure, excluding portraiture, expressed in the traditional mediums of painting, drawing, and sculpture. While some artists were invited to participate, the majority responded to an open call published in a broad range of social media platforms. Some individual artists answered the call, while others were submitted by galleries and collectors. Hundreds of works were received from across the U.S. and from as far away as Poland and Japan. The vast majority of the works submitted were paintings, though some sculptures and drawings were also considered and selected for publication. The entries were pared down to only 50 works, all completed in 2017. I am in no way inferring that these were the best works completed in 2017--simply that they are a collection of some excellent works, in a variety of voices and handling that were created during the year. In the end, I believe these works of art represent some of the finest figurative work being created today, and this issue serves as a kind of year-end "anthology" to capture a small sampling for the public to appreciate and celebrate.

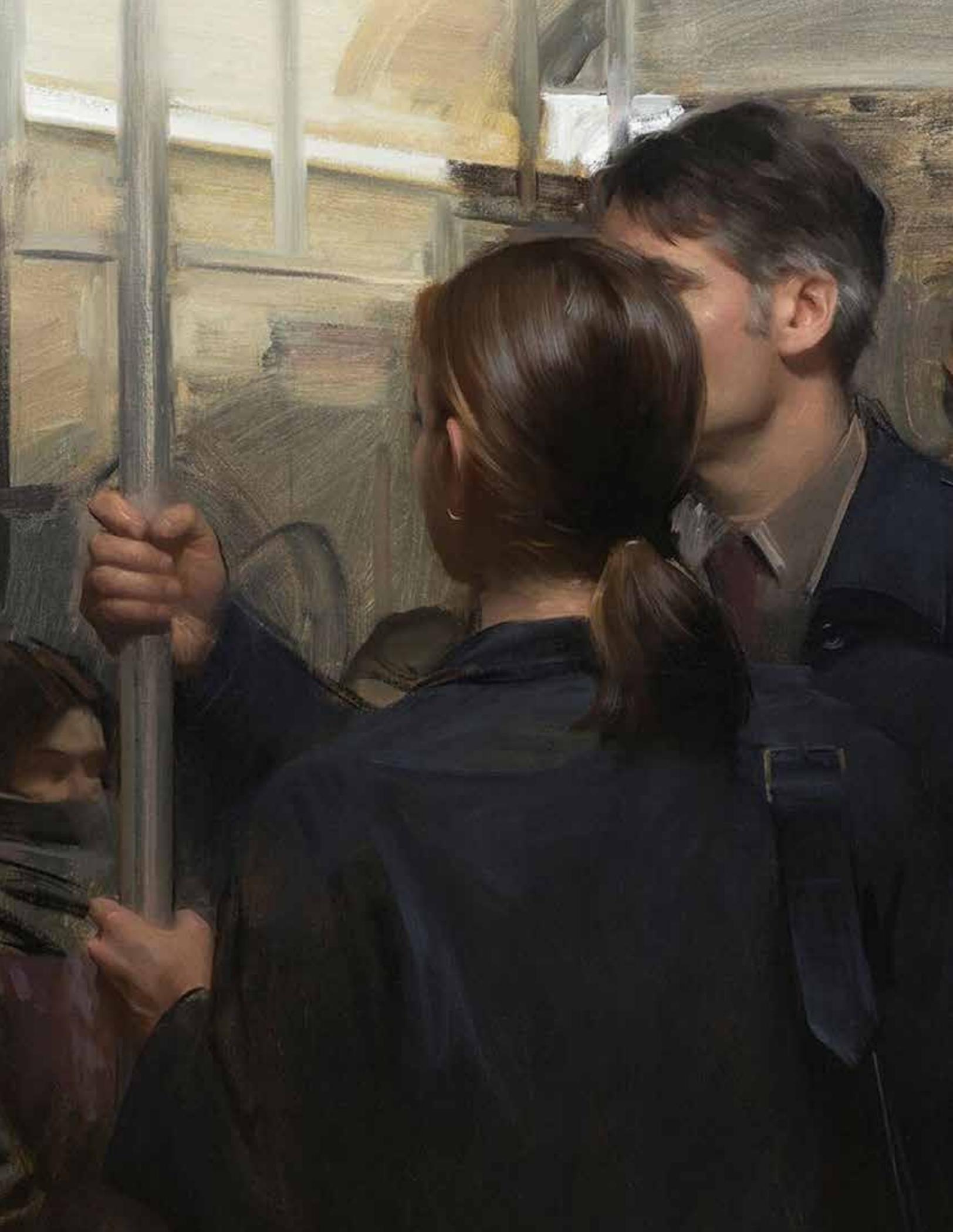
So, why did I choose the image you see on the cover? After all, the quality and variety of work I received made the task a bit daunting. First, I considered the overall impression the work had on me. Then, I took into account the objective, more formal elements, such as line, form, shape, composition, texture, value, color, etc. That part is relatively easy. Next came the harder part--the more subjective considerations. Was there symbolism employed? What mood was conveyed, and how did it affect the impression of the entire work? Were there social-psychological considerations? What kind of narrative was going on, and what part did it play for the piece to work at a high level? Was it an over-riding consideration? How did the work make me feel? What was the overall visual impact of the work? How did the work hold up against the others across the spectrum of styles and mediums?

Over several days of viewing all the submissions, I was able to filter the candidates down to 3 or 4 works that stood out for me. Any one of these could have worked extremely well as the cover. Eventually, I began to see two works that kept surfacing as the finalists with the greatest potential to serve as the image that would grace the cover. Though handled differently, both works displayed excellent technical proficiency. Looking at them side by side, I began to notice differences that led to the eventual selection.

The more technically masterful work displayed a literal slice of contemporary life, containing multiple figures, with a strong focal point and a powerful overall impact. The other, was a "quieter" work, that connected with me at another level. I found myself wanting to know more about what was going on in the piece. At first glance, the piece appears somewhat busy, yet oddly calm. Here, a young woman stands still in the center, gazing at the viewer while holding her finger to her lips, as if gently urging our silence. All at once, the earthy palette, the stylistic handling of the ephemeral clouds and the angelic figures recalled early Flemish painting. I soon recognized that the figures behind the woman, were visions from the left panel of a 1485 painting by Hans Memling, "Angel Musicians". Here, the artist juxtaposes the image of a living human in a scene from a painting from the past.

Rather than a photorealistic depiction of what lies in front of the artist, this imaginative work explores the boundaries between what is real and what is painted. We all know it is a painting, but the idea of inserting a human from this world into the dimensional plane of what is painted, is an interesting and compelling one. I hope you will appreciate "Adoration" by Polish artist, Agnieszka Nienartowicz, along with all of the other extremely fine works by 40 artists contained on the pages that follow.







Tina Spratt



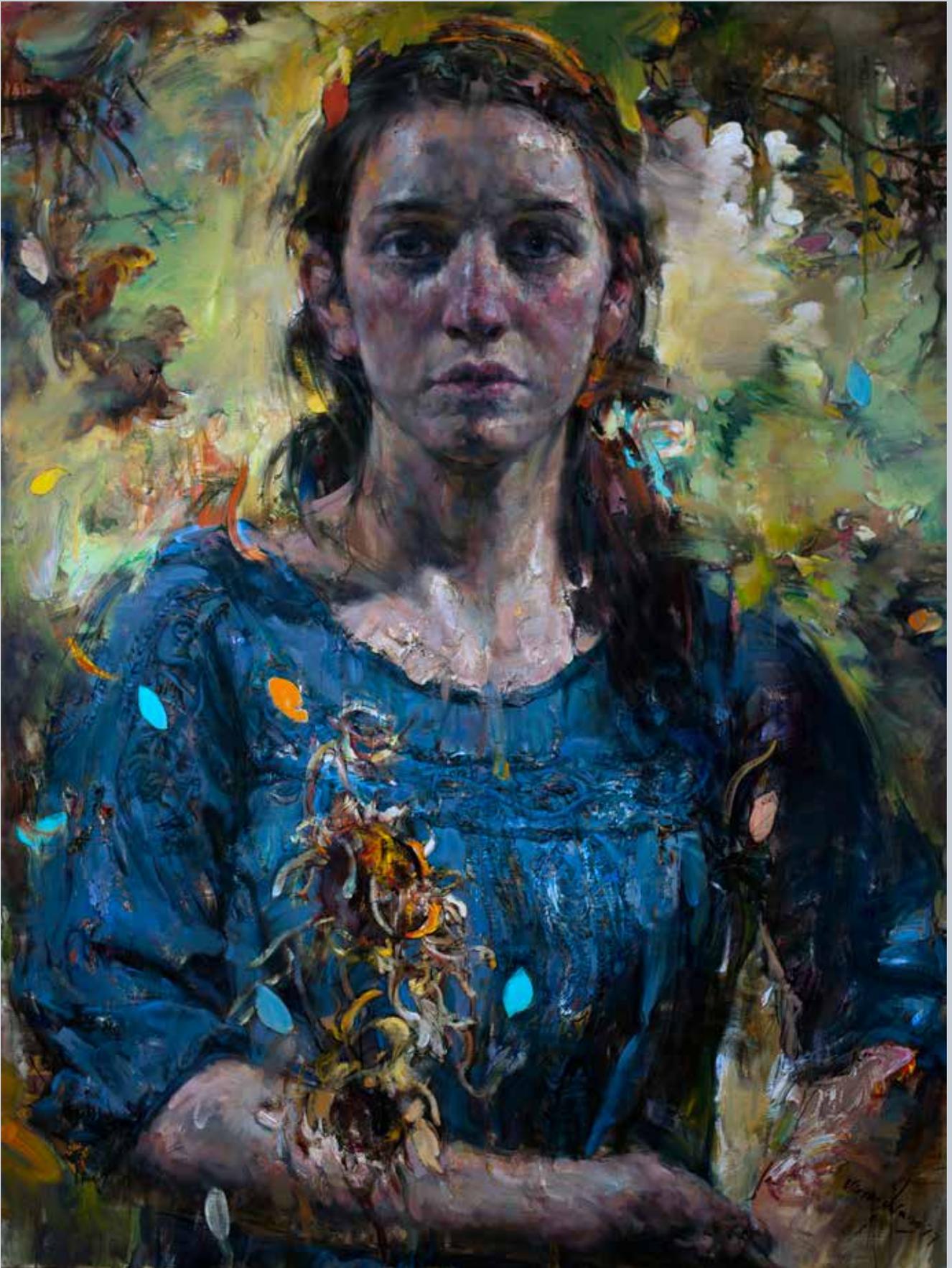
Cocooned | oil on canvas | 30x38 | 2017

Megan Read



Resilience | oil on canvas | 48x60 | 2017

Victor Wang



Falling Leaves | oil and collage on canvas | 65x48 | 2017

Tamie Beldue



Rocker | graphite, charcoal, archival ink, encaustic | 56x33 | 2017

Adrienne Stein



First Light | oil on linen | 24x18 | 2017 | Nominated by Didi Menendez

Lis Pardoe



Anne-Christine Roda





Palais-Royal | oil on linen | 45x58 | 2017 | *PoetsArtists* Member

Agnieszka Nienartowicz



Osamu Obi



Reisha Perlmutter



Alex Russell Flint



Viktoriya Savenkova



Blue 1 | oil on linen | 39x39 | 2017

Steven Hughes



Emergence | acrylic on board | 10x8 | 2017

Cindy Rizza



Maria Jimenez



App Addiction | charcoal on paper | 22x30 | 2017 | *PoetsArtists* Member

Jason deCaires Taylor



Crossing the Rubicon | marine cement life size | 2017



The Raft of Lampedusa | marine cement life size | 2017

Caroline Westerhout



Forever A Statue | oil on canvas | 23.5x39 | 2017

Denis Sarazhin



Pantomime No. 15 | oil on canvas | 33.5x33.5 | 2017 | Nominated by Arcadia Contemporary Gallery

Anna Wypych

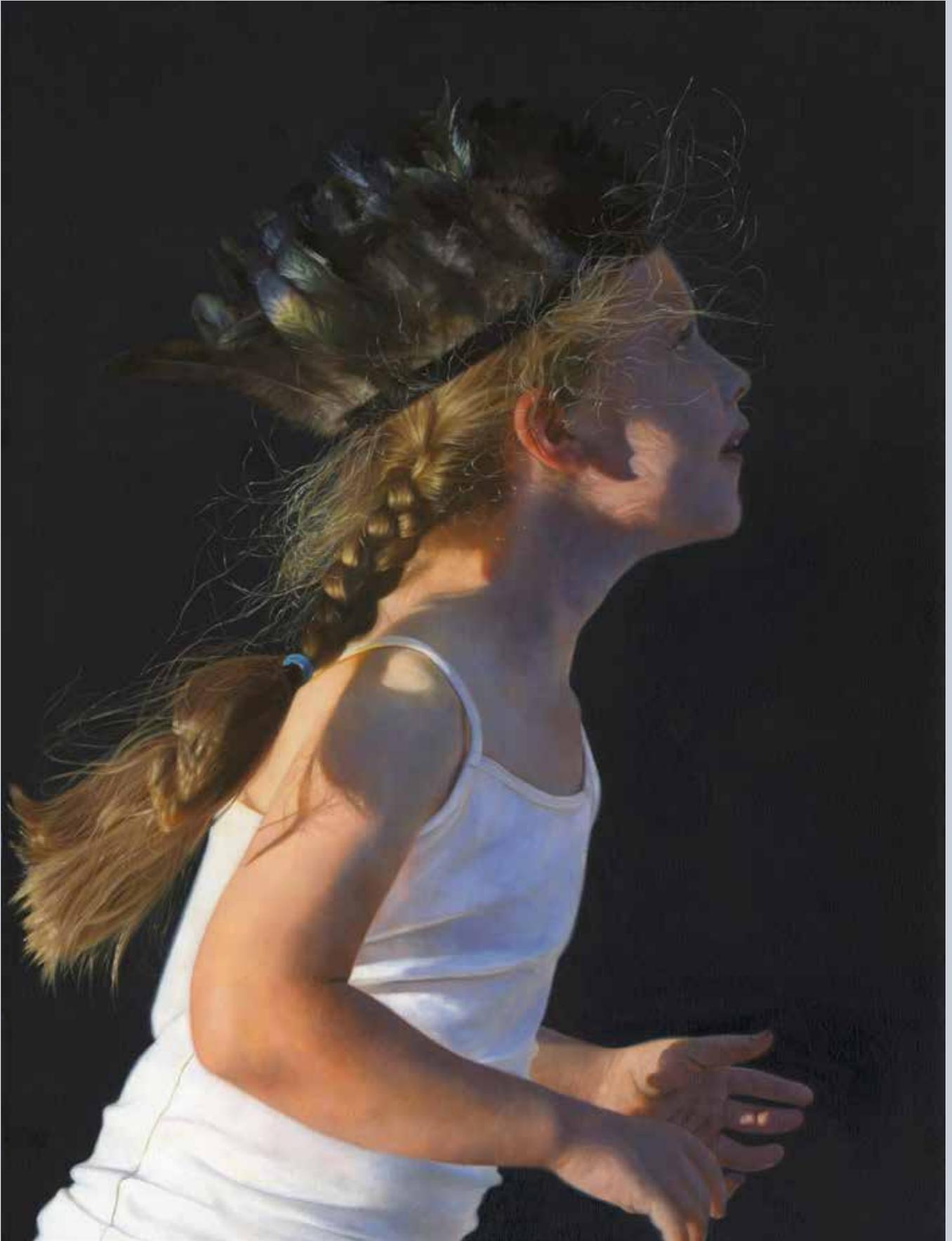


Alexandra Tyng



Triumph of Light | oil on linen | 60x84 | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member

Lesley Thiel



Moonchild | oil on canvas | 32x24 | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member

Judith Peck



Memory's Reflection | oil and plaster on board | 40x30 | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member

Daniel Blimes



Symbiotic | oil on panel | 18x18 | 2017 | Nominated by Arcadia Contemporary Gallery



Caught in the Current | oil on panel | 36x72 | 2017 | Nominated by Arcadia Contemporary Gallery

Francien Krieg

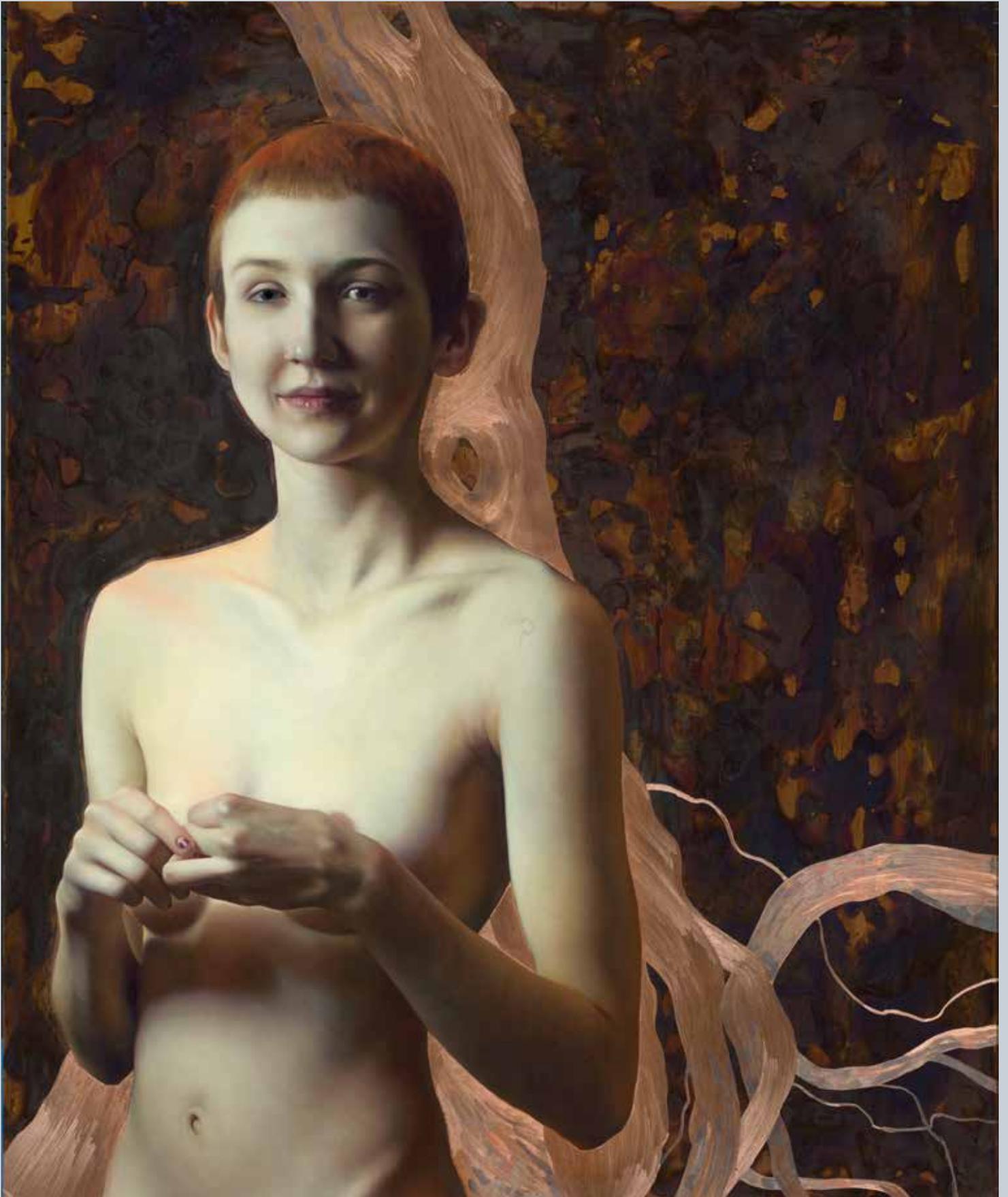


Looking Forward | oil on panel | 24x30 cm | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member



Young Man's Dream | oil on panel | 40x60 cm | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member

Erin Anderson

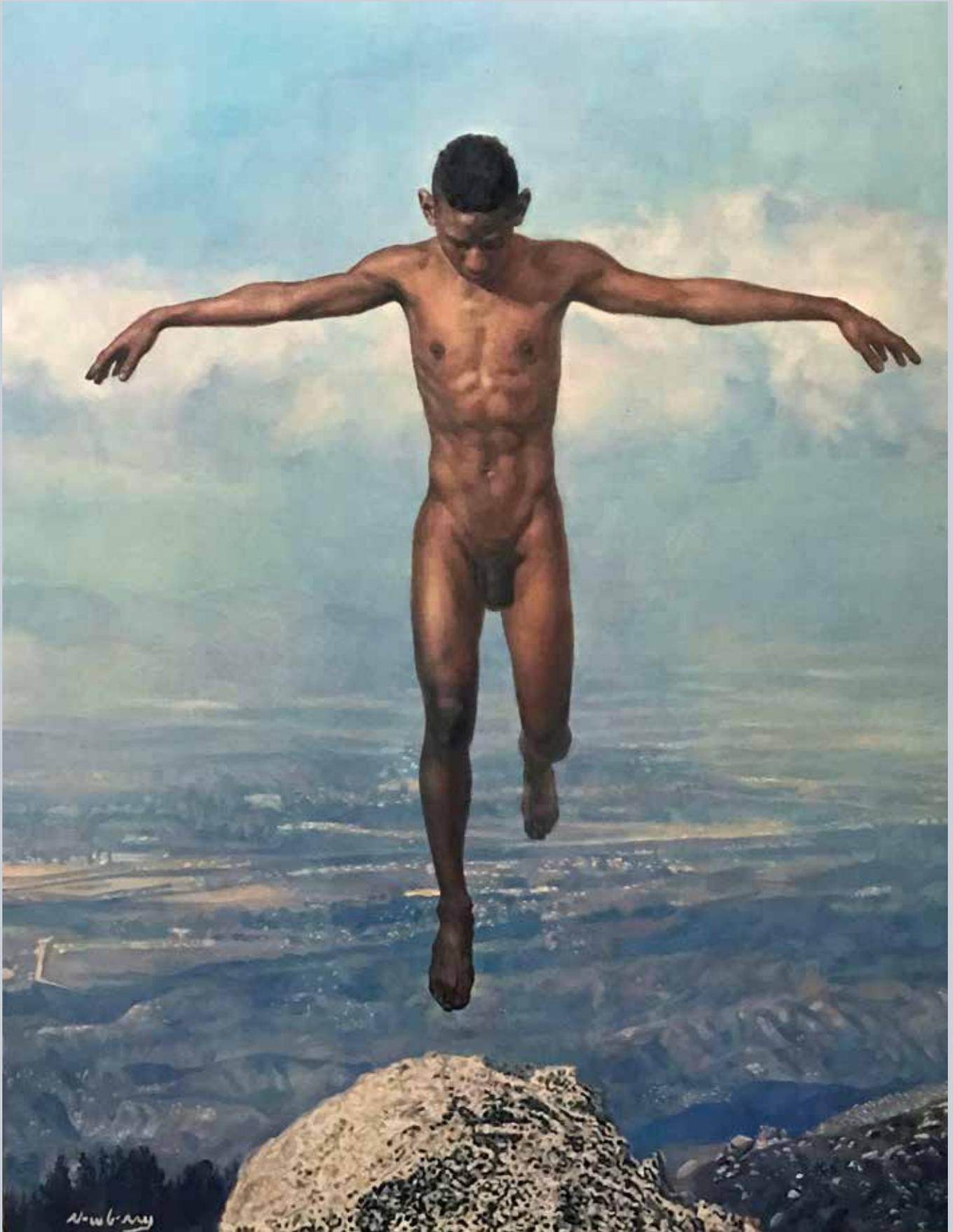


The Candidate | oil on copper | 36x30 | 2017 | *PoetsArtists* Member



The Fighter | oil on copper | 36x30 | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member

Michael Newberry



Idyllwild Icarus | oil on canvas | 60x46 | 2017

Malgorzata Chodakowska



Vogelhochzeit | bronze | 64x38x17 | 2017

Richard Morris



The-Waking-Dream | charcoal and graphite on paper | 26x20 | 2017 | Nominated by Arcadia Contemporary Gallery

Suzy Smith



Hey Mickey | oil on canvas | 24x18 | 2017

Ricky Mujica



Exhausted | oil on canvas | 30x40 | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member



Mother Courage | oil on canvas | 36x48 | 2017 | *PoetsArtists* Member

Daniel Maidman



Rachel Checking Her Cell Phone | oil on canvas | 30x40 | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member

Matthew Alfonso Durante



Figure 1 | graphite charcoal and wax pencil on paper | 12x12 | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member

Laura Atkins



Ariadne's Thread | oil on panel | 32x32 | 2017 | PoetsArtists Member



Mesopotamia | oil on panel | 24x30 | 2017 | *PoetsArtists* Member

Tanja Gant



Camille | charcoal on paper | 31x20 | *PoetsArtists* Member



Promises | charcoal on paper | 15x27 | PoetsArtists Member

Sarah Muirhead



Moniasse | acrylic on board | 28.6x46.7cm | 2017 | *PoetsArtists* Member



Stigmata | acrylic on board | 60x48 cm | 2017 | *PoetsArtists* Member

Dianne Gall



Everybody Knows | oil on linen | 60x66 | 2017 | Nominated by The Bennett Collection of Women Realists

Carmen Chami



Aya Watanabe | oil on canvas | 64x48 | 2017 | Nominated by The Bennett Collection of Women Realists

Nick Alm



Hotel Ghost | oil on canvas | 22x25.5 | 2017 | Nominated by Arcadia Contemporary Gallery



Metro | oil on canvas | 35x43 | 2017 | Nominated by Arcadia Contemporary Gallery

Donna Bates



Brad Kunkle



Behold A History Without A Past | oil gold and silver leaf on linen | 40x60 | 2017

Nick Alm got accepted to the Florence Academy of Art in 2007 where he also became a teaching assistant. After graduation Nick received a scholarship to join The Hudson River Fellowship to paint landscapes. A big part of 2011 was spent together with Odd Nerdrum in Norway and France before moving back to Sweden to set up a new studio. Nick has received several international honors and awards. In May 2012 he exhibited in the Portrait Society of America show in Philadelphia where he received an "Exceptional Merit Award". In 2013 he won the First Place Prize in ARC's international salon, followed by a "William Bouguereau Award" in 2014.

Born in 1987 in the small town of Waterville, Ohio, **Erin Anderson** was immersed in art from a young age. Enrolling in her first art lessons at seven years old, she spent her early years learning to paint and draw copying works of the old masters and spending summers drawing from life at the Toledo Museum of Art. In 2009 she earned a B.A. in Psychology and Entrepreneurship from Miami University. Upon graduation she decided to enroll in an independent program called The Waichulis Studio and later moved to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania where she lives and works today. Her work has been featured in national publications as well as exhibitions throughout the U.S.

Working primarily in oils, **Laura Atkins'** paintings are often described as haunting and addictive. Her atmospheric vignettes are filled with metaphors, and her subjects could be said to have a timelessness. Mostly self-taught, Laura has recently attended Portrait Artist Paul McCormack's portrait oil painting workshop. She has also been a studio assistant for Portrait Artist Leslie Adams and continues to study the Art of the Old Masters in the Detroit Institute of Art and the Toledo Museum of Art.

Native Southern Californian, **Donna Bates** lives and paints in Los Angeles CA. Her years of experience as a commercial illustrator and 3D Artist for over 20 years has evolved into a career in painting. She is a self-taught artist that is known for her urban, edgy, realistic style of strong independent women or "Bad Ass Chicks".

Art and being a creative have dominated Donna Bates' life who started drawing as soon as she could pick up a pencil. As with so many creative people, Donna wanted to do it all. Although she was an art major in school, she started playing drums when she was 16 and played in numerous bands. Touring Viet Nam in a USO Show during the war with an all-girl band to playing with bands in the early LA Punk scene in the late 70's and early 80's. She then transitioned into computers in the early '90s, being one of very few women who entered the male-dominated 3d Animation/VFX field. She went on to be one of the only women to teach CG Modeling at Gnomon School of VFX.

In the last two years Donna has participated in numerous shows, the prestigious "Women Painting Women" Show at RJD Gallery and currently has 3 paintings in the "Woman as Warrior" show in Chicago curated by Sergio Gomez and Didi Menendez.

Born in upstate New York, **Tamie Beldue** is a contemporary American artist focused in mixed media drawings. Beldue received a BFA from the Columbus College of Art & Design and earned her MFA at the University of Cincinnati. Beldue has exhibited extensively in the US in group and solo exhibitions, including the Fort Wayne Museum of Art Realism Biennial, Southern Ohio Museum, North Carolina Museum of Art, Mobile Museum of Art, the Arnot Art Museum's Re-Presenting Representation and the Fontbonne University Fine Arts Gallery. Her works are in the permanent collections of the Arnot Museum of Art, The DeYoung Museum, Howard & Judy

Tullman Collection, James T. Dyke Collection of Contemporary Drawings and the Sandy & Diane Besser Collection. Currently she is represented by Blue Spiral Galleries in Asheville, NC and is an Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina Asheville.

Daniel Bilmes is a contemporary painter, working in Los Angeles. His approach is characterized by deep personal exploration, combining realism with elements of symbolism and abstraction. Through tactile textures and delicate expressions, his paintings weave together the magical and mundane. His work is at once hopeful and brooding. Realistic and symbolic. Somewhere between the vitality of the Russian circus and the gravitas of a Churchill speech.

Daniel began his art education at the age of 8 under the tutelage of his father, the respected artist and educator, Semyon Bilmes. Being immersed in art from such an early age had a profound impact on his personal growth and creativity, laying a lasting foundation of curiosity that continues to drive and inform his work today.

Carmen Chami (Mexico City, 1974) graduated in Art Restoration. Chami showed a deep interest in the Mexican baroque painting technique of the seventeenth century. She studied this technique forgotten for several decades, she won the grant offered by the FONCA in Morelos. Later, she did the Master of Visual Arts at San Carlos Academy. She graduated with honors.

In 2006 Chami started to explore her own language and in the same year Gallery 13 in Minneapolis invited to present her first solo show in the United States titled "Alchemy: Formations of light and spirit". Since then, she was selected in several contests as the 7th Zalce's Biennial and Woman in Arts, in both won the Honorable Mention in 2009. After that came the 2th Pedro's Coronel Biennial (2009), 5th Yucatan's Visual Arts Biennial (2011); 8th Zalce's Biennial (2011), among others.

As group exhibitions Carmen Chami's highlights in Mexico and abroad are the Gorman Museum of California, Bellas Artes Palace in Mexico City; Mexican Cultural Institute of San Antonio, National History Museum; Mexican Cultural Institute in Miami; Queretaro's Art Museum; Cercle de la Garnison in Québec; Queretaro's Art Museum; Chopo's University Museum; José Maria Velasco's Museum; Del Carmen Museum; Lutheran University of California and Cabañas Cultural Institute in Guadalajara.

Chami's solo shows highlights are Cuernavaca's Museum; Guanajuato's Town Art Museum; Aguascalientes Center for the Arts and Culture and Aldama Fine Art gallery. In 2016 she awarded the National Art Creators System Art the most important grant in Mexico. Her paintings belong to relevant institutions as Mexican Presidency; Marines Secretary; National University of Mexico; Milenio Group and the National Death Museum.

Jason deCaires Taylor is a sculptor, environmentalist and professional underwater photographer. Born in 1974 to an English father and Guyanese mother, Taylor graduated from the London Institute of Arts in 1998 with a BA Honours in Sculpture.

His permanent site-specific works span several continents and predominately explore submerged and tidal marine environments. His multi-disciplinarily sculptural works explore modern themes of conservation and environmental activism; Over the past 10 years Taylor he has created several large-scale underwater "Museums" and "Sculpture Parks", with collections of over 850 life-size public works.

A prolific sculptor, he became the first of a new generation

of artists to shift the concepts of the Land art movement into the realm of the marine environment. He gained international notoriety in 2006 with the creation of the world's first underwater sculpture park, situated off the west coast of Grenada in the West Indies. Now listed as one of the Top 25 Wonders of the World by National Geographic the park was instrumental in the government declaring the site a National Marine Protected Area. This was followed in 2009 when he co-founded MUSA (Museo Subacuático de Arte), a vast collection of over 500 of his sculptural works, installed between Cancun and Isla Mujeres in Mexico.

Other major projects include Museo Atlantico (2016), a collection over 300 submerged sculptures and architectural forms in Lanzarote, Spain, the first of its kind in European waters. The Rising Tide (2016 Thames London) and Ocean Atlas a monumental 60-ton single sculpture located in the Bahamas.

Matthew Alfonso Durante emerged from the Wisconsin woodlands with a desire to do art. As a young man he studied computer science and worked in computer animation in the midwest, but art always drew him away and led him astray. When the opportunity arose he flew to the west coast to study at the Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art, and graduated the full-time program in 2011. Since then Matthew has been painting and drawing the landscape, seeking living motion and memory there. He wants to do the same with the figure somehow but he doesn't yet know how; but that's what he's after. Matthew is currently pursuing an M.F.A. at the New York Academy of Art.

Alex Russell Flint (b.1974) is a British artist specialising in beautifully crafted representational portraits and narrative works in oil and charcoal.

Often set within and around his home, 'l'Ancienne École' (a beautiful old schoolhouse in central France) his timeless paintings of strong, alluring females, placed in intriguing situations or simply posed portraits, strike a pleasing balance between the classical and the contemporary.

Along with solo, joint and group shows in London, Ireland and the United States, and countless commissions, his artwork has been used for the front cover of Donna Tartt's 'Secret History' and his French home and studio featured in various interior design publications including Condé Nast's 'World of Interiors' and Annie Sloan's 'Recipes for style and colour'. Alex is the great-grandson of the artist Sir William Russell Flint and divides his time between studios in London and France.

A contemporary Realist painter, **Dianne Gall** works in her private studio, which is situated 5 minutes from the CBD in Adelaide, a small coastal city of Australia. Dianne's initial training was at the South Australian School of Art, where the teaching was more about how to think about the content and context of art rather than just skill based. Believing in life long learning, she continues to refine her skills and knowledge as a painter. Painting is all consuming for the artist and she has been painting and exhibiting for more than 30 years now.

Gall, arrived at painting images of women in the early 2000's to reflect her personal experiences as an observation of what happens both around her and to her, thus the imagery continues to evolve around this theme over time.

The artists' only medium is to paint in oils, never working up studies, but sometimes, there will appear other versions of imagery and locations because an idea has been worthy of further exploration. Gall spends almost as much time mulling over the ideas for the works as painting them. A work is never produced just because, it has to say something and exist for a reason, she sees no point in just adding to the collective of works that have been painted over time.

The scenes in the paintings are in essence cinematic, a frozen moment where you can believe that there was a before and there will be an after to be played out in your mind. Like at the movies you play the part of the passive voyeur, however the stillness of paintings allows your gaze to linger only at the visible.

Born in Bosnia (former Yugoslavia) in 1972, **Tanja Gant** is a contemporary, realist portrait artist who currently resides in Mississippi. She discovered her passion for pencil and portraits very early. Being self-taught she drew throughout her childhood and later on during the Bosnian war. Since becoming a full-time artist in 2010 she has won numerous awards in regional, national, and international competitions and has had her work exhibited in as many shows throughout the country. Her work has also been published in several books and magazines, most notably: PoetsArtists, Southwest Art Magazine, The Artist's Magazine, and a series of Strokes of Genius books. Tanja's drawings focus on the narrative and individual's personality.

Steven Hughes received his training at Kent State University, earning an MFA in Visual Communication Design with a concentration in illustration. He operates a freelance art studio, Primary Hughes Illustration, and serves as Associate Professor responsible for the Illustration program at Northern Michigan University. His work has been used by The New York Times, American Greetings, Paint & Draw Magazine (UK), Toronto Blue Jays Care Foundation, Light Grey Art Lab, Case Western Reserve University, Ohio Magazine, and been displayed in numerous gallery exhibitions around the US.

Maria Jimenez was born and raised in New York City and is a contemporary representational artist. While working towards her undergraduate degree at the School of Visual Arts, she began working as a freelancer illustrating trade and mass-market paperback covers. After graduating, Maria studied in academic schools such as the New York Academy and National Academy and was awarded a residency at the Vermont Studio School. She currently divides her time between teaching high school and pursuing painting. Maria Jimenez' objective in her work is to capture the essence of people in an arresting moment while using their cell phones and to explore cell phone addictions in adolescent and adults. She also enjoys painting portraits and people in everyday situations. Her paintings have appeared in National exhibitions and juried competitions including the Long Island Museum, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Gallery, Salmagundi Club, and Museum of American Illustration winning the Richard Amsel Memorial award and a grant from The Elizabeth T. Greenshields Foundation. She continues to explore social media while investigating genre situations associated with this theme.

Francien Krieg [1973] is a Dutch artist who lives in the countryside in the middle of The Netherlands with her two children and husband, working fulltime in her studio.

She graduated in 1998 from the Royal art academy in The Hague, study course Monumental art. That brought her to think conceptually and she discovered her fascination for the human body. Francien Krieg expressed her thoughts in these academic years with meat installations and human skins made of rubber.

A few years later, she picked up her passion for painting at The Free Academy of The Hague. She expressed her fascination for the human body into paintings with strange body perspectives. Soon her work was picked up by art collectors and art galleries. Her work became part the Dutch art collections like ING Collection and the former Scheringa collection.

Francien has shown at Scope Basel, art fair Realisme Amsterdam, Robert Lange Studios Charleston USA, Zhou B Art Center, Townsend atelier and recently an exhibition at Gallery

Beinart. In 2017, she was nominated for the Dutch Portrait Award and shortlisted for the Figurativas 2017 MEAM in Barcelona. Additionally, her work was published in the Austrian art magazine *Milionart Kaleidoscope*.

Brad Kunkle invites us to an other-worldly place, and yet, it is a place that feels so familiar to us. His themes explore intuition and following one's own nature, the power of feminine energies, and shedding the dogmas predicated from previous generations. His work asks us to trust ourselves, to embrace the unknown, and to seek beauty--an aspect of life, that he believes is key to thriving cultures and the dissemination of humanity.

Daniel Maidman is best known for his vivid depiction of the figure. Maidman's drawings and paintings are included in the permanent collections of the Library of Congress, the New Britain Museum of American Art, and the Long Beach Museum of Art. His art and writing on art have been featured in PoetsArtists, ARTnews, Beautiful/Bizarre, Forbes, W, Juxtapoz, Hyperallergic, American Art Collector, D/Railed, Whitehot and Manifest. He writes art criticism for The Huffington Post, art instruction for International Artist, and is a repeat guest critic at the New York Academy of Art. His first book of drawings, Daniel Maidman: Nudes, is available from Griffith Moon Publishing. He is represented by Jenn Singer Gallery. He lives and paints in Brooklyn, New York.

Born in 1977 in California's San Fernando Valley, **Richard Morris** is a representational painter and draftsman. He received his MFA from the New York Academy of Art in 2014 and has been teaching in Southern California for over 14 years at schools and independent studios including Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD), California Art Institute, Los Angeles Academy of Fine Art (LAAFA), and 3Kicks Art Studio. Richard has exhibited his work in Los Angeles, New York City, and Cincinnati. Richard currently lives and works in San Diego.

Glasgow born, Edinburgh based artist, **Sarah Muirhead's** work focuses on the physicality and spirit of the body and its potential for pleasure, pain and expression. The quality of flesh, its contrasting textures and translucence, the density and potential of muscle and the irregularity and dimples in fatty tissue are important in the way she describes any given subject. The bodies are a strange mixture of lurid, glistening attraction and true empathic realism. They reflect private selves and acknowledge the role of the voyeur in observing and recreating them. Her work articulates the anatomy of the body while creating layered imagery and provoking questions about identity and gender. Muirhead was nominated as one of '10 New Sensations' by a panel including Kirsty Wark and Tracy Emin for a show which would be followed by Solo exhibitions in Lazarides, Edinburgh's Axolotl Gallery and most recently the Leyden Gallery in London which was named as one of Whitechapel Gallery's top 5 exhibitions during Frieze week. Muirhead's subjects include performers, singers, dancers, artists, models, homeless people and friends. She has exhibited work and is part of collections in the USA, Europe and throughout the UK including a recent commission for Oxford University and worked in medical illustration and portraiture as well as her main practice in innovative figurative art.

Born and raised in New York, **Ricky Mujica** started painting at the age of 15 as a student at High School of Art and Design where he was a member of the legendary "Early Morning Painting Group", run by Max Ginsburg and Irwin Greenberg. After high school, Ricky won a full Presidential Scholarship and continued his art education at Parsons School of Design/ New School and Parsons in Paris. While attending Parsons,

He has made illustrations for *The New York Times*, *Daily News*,

Ebony Magazine, and a painting for a Cherry 7-UP commercial. He has painted murals for Sony and Leows theaters, and has made paintings used on clothes for fashion designer Rachel Roy. His artwork has been presented at the Museum of American Illustration on several occasions. Since his return to Fine Art, Ricky Mujica has received many awards, including a first place finish at the April round of The Representational Art Conference 2015 competition (TRAC2015), where his work was exhibited. He has been a finalist and a certificate of merit recipient in the Portrait Society of America International competition on several occasions. He has been a finalist in the OPA National, Regional and members competitions, the Salmagundi Club members and non-members competitions, the Allied Artists Competitions, the National Oil and Acrylic Painters National competitions, the Richeson Competitions, the *Artist Magazine* figurative art competitions, and the ARC International Salon Competitions, he won the Art Expo Solo Award, and has received an Honorable Mention in the Figurativas competition in Barcelona. Most recently, Ricky won the Florence and Ernest Thompson Memorial Award at the 103 Allied Artists Exhibition, and won Best in Show (First Place) at the Lore Degenstein Gallery of Susquehanna University Ninth Annual Figurative Drawing and Painting Competition. Ricky's iconic painting "Multitasking", has been shared on the Internet over a million times ending up on a front page Reddit article. He is a Signature Status Member of the International Portrait Society. He has taught at the legendary Art Students League on several occasions and has given demos and workshops all around the world. Ricky has lived and exhibited in Africa, Norway, Germany, Mexico, France, Spain, Japan, England, Italy, and Australia and his oil paintings and watercolors are in various collections around the world. He has also been a touring break dancer, a Golden Gloves boxer, a musical theater performer (with an Andrew Lloyd Weber Musical), a Shakespearean actor, a stand-up comic with several appearances at Carolines in New York, a skateboarder (one of the original Zoo Yorker Skaters), a guiro player in a traveling Salsa Band, and a touring dance roller skater. He is now a proud father and husband. Ricky looks to Rembrandt, Velasquez, and Kathe Kollwitz for inspiration.

Michael Newberry has been pioneering figurative art for over four decades with his unpredictable brand of beauty. Using pigments and a surface he probes inner workings of the human psyche and depths of light. He has exhibited in Santa Monica, Los Angeles, New York, Rome, Athens, and he will have an upcoming show in at the White Cloud Gallery in Washington D.C. in the fall of 2017.

Agnieszka Nienartowicz was born in 1991 in Jelenia Góra, a small city in Poland. Studied Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk, where in 2016 she received a Bachelor of Arts. In the years 2011-2014 she studied Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław. She was awarded several scholarships and a number of awards and distinctions. Now she lives and works in Zakopane, a beautiful city located in the soaring and picturesque Polish Tatra Mountains.

Osamu Obi was born in Kanagawa, Japan in 1965. He graduated from Musashino Art University (Department of Oil Painting), and completed a Master's Degree Program in Oil Painting, Musashino Art University, in 1990. By 1991, he was awarded the Grand Prize in the exhibition of Grand Prize Paintings at Tokyo Central Museum. Two years later, he participated in the Yasui Prize Exhibition, and by 1996, participated in the Exchange Exhibition between South Korean and Japanese Oil Painters (Yokohama & Seoul). Since that time he has exhibited extensively: the 1999 Hakujuitsukai Art Exhibition, where he earned the Incentive Award of the Minister of Education; the 6th Kanji Maeda Grand Prize Exhibition, Semi-grand-priz (Takashimaya Nihonbashi, Kurayoshi Museum) in 2004; the 2005 2nd Beauty of Existence Exhibition (Takashimaya,

Tokyo and other places); the 2006 Hakujuitsukai Art Exhibition, where he captured The Prime Minister Award; the The Tewaza Exhibition (Mitsukoshi Nihonbashi) in 2009, and the Beauty of Existence Exhibition (Takashimaya, Tokyo and other places) in 2010 and 2012. Obi had solo exhibitions in 1999 at the Shunpudo Gallery (Tokyo) and the KIAF 2007 (Seoul Shunpudo Gallery Booth). He is Adjunct Instructor of Musashino Art University, and is currently scheduled to study in Paris for a year under the Japanese Government Overseas Study Programme for Artists.

Lis Pardoe (b. 1991) was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. A month after graduating high school, she began an apprenticeship under Jeff Hein, at the Hein Atelier of Traditional Art in 2010. After two years, she began teaching beginning students at the atelier, and became Jeff Hein's assistant for the remaining three and a half years of her study. Upon graduating in December 2015, she started as a night class figure drawing and painting instructor at the Hein Atelier, and also started building up a body of work for a portfolio. Currently in 2017, Lis teaches figure drawing independently in her art studio in downtown SLC, where she also currently paints and continues to build her work, every day.

Judith Peck is a Washington, DC area allegorical figurative artist who has made her life's work to paint about history and healing, using a variety of methods and experimental techniques to achieve a diverse range of visual and tactile results that validate a strong narrative. She has been awarded by the Masur Museum of Art, the Alexandria Museum of Art's International exhibit both in Louisiana, the Lore Degenstein Gallery Competition at Susquehanna University, and Florida A&M University's Pinnacle Competition, shown in both Context Art Basel and Aqua Art Miami, a solo at the Hoyt Institute of Fine Arts in New Castle, Pennsylvania, and shows at galleries around the country including Abend Gallery in Denver and Yeelen Gallery in Miami. She was awarded the Strauss Fellowship Grant from Fairfax County, Virginia as well as an International Artist-in-Residence for two months in Salzburg Austria.

Her paintings have been featured numerous times in *American Art Collector Magazine*, *PoetsArtists*, *The Artist's Magazine*, *iARTisas*, *Combustus*, *Tradition and Transformation* and the *Ashen Rainbow*, books by Ori Z. Soltes, as well as the *Kress Project* book published by the Georgia Museum of Art. Judith Peck's work is collected internationally and can be found in many private collections and public collections.

Reisha Perlmutter was born in Naples, FL in 1990. The natural environment and imagery from her childhood is formative to her work. She received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Perlmutter attended an atelier style residency for six months in France before moving to New York, where she received her MFA in painting from the New York Academy of Art. During this time, she focused extensively on her technique in the form of traditional figuration. She currently lives and works in New York City and has shown and collected in galleries internationally. Her work has been shown at Sotheby's, and will be shown at her first museum this winter 2017.

Native to Maine, **Cindy Rizza** is a classically trained, representational oil painter with her BFA from the New Hampshire Institute of Art. Her iconic representations of nostalgia summon conflicting feelings of comfort and loneliness, hope and foreboding, and of life and loss. She is a recipient of numerous awards, including a finalist at the Art Renewal Center 2016 Salon, the Vermont Studio Center Artist Grant, and most recently Second Prize at the 9th Annual Lore Degenstein National Figurative Drawing and Painting Competition. Her work is collected internationally. Cindy lives and works in Southern New Hampshire.

Anne-Christine Roda was born in Paris, France, in 1974. She studied painting restoration and after ten years of restoring art work for museums, churches, antique dealers and collectors, she became an Art teacher at « Ecole de beaux Arts du Genevois » in the Geneva area, in France. While teaching she started painting in her own studio 6 years ago and has only begun showing her work more recently.

Her first exhibition was in an Art Fair in Paris. She has since exhibited her works in various Art Centers and Galleries in Paris, London, Monaco, and Geneva. In 2015, She was selected for the BP Award at the National Portrait Gallery in London. This allowed her painting to be showcased for one year in London, Edinburgh and Belfast. She 's currently being represented by « Courcelles Art Contemporain » a Gallery in Paris.

Megan Elizabeth Read is an artist from Charlottesville, Virginia, who works primarily in charcoal or oil and focuses largely on the human form. As a child, she developed a passion for drawing that has continued and though she has little traditional training she has developed her own techniques through trial and error. Mae has worked as a graphic and web designer for many years and after an extended period away from creating art, she came back to her work in charcoal and her interest has since shifted towards oils. She now has a studio in Charlottesville where the majority of her time is currently spent with that medium and her approach is continuing to evolve.

Denis Sarazhin was born in Nikopol, Ukraine in 1982 . He attended the Kharkov Art and Design Academy, graduating in 2008. He specialized in painting and was a pupil of Ganozkiy V. L., Chaus V. N., and Vintayev V. N.. Sarazhin was awarded with the 1st Degree Diploma Award for Excellence in Painting from the Ukrainian Art Academy. Since 2007 he has been a member of Kharkov's section of the association of Ukraine's Artists' Alliance.

Viktoria Savenkova was born in 1979 in Gomel, Belarus. Her artistic journey began in childhood in an art studio and continued art school including college at the Academy of Art (Minsk, Belarus). After a period as an Art Director at the national film studio "Belarusfilm", she worked as a tattoo artist.

In 2014 she went back to painting working primarily in large formats. Her work centers on psychological portraits, sensuous landscapes, figure studies in realistic style. She has participated in local and international exhibitions and competitions (Italy, Spain, United States) and been published in various catalogues. She is currently based in Minsk, Belarus.

Suzy Smith is a Wyoming native, who currently resides in Albuquerque, NM, after living in the San Francisco Bay area for many years. She started her career learning to draw and paint in watercolor, at the local community college in her hometown of Casper, WY. Smith was recently invited to return to WY, where she had a one woman retrospective show 'Suzy Smith: Pop Realism', at the Nicolaysen Art museum, where her work now resides in their permanent collection.

Smith has exhibited her work around the country, and her paintings are included in many private and public collections which include: the Howard Tullman Collection, the Dryer's Grand Ice Cream Corporate Collection, and the Kaiser Foundation Art Collection. Smith paints in oil and watercolor, painting figurative work as well as still life. She is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, and is represented by Tangent Contemporary Art in San Francisco, CA, and Abend Gallery in Denver, Colorado.

Tina Spratt has always been fascinated by the skill and draughtsmanship in painting. In her work a great emphasis is

placed on the execution, she tends to paint in many layers to build up the glow of light and depth she requires to create the atmosphere and mood. She was inspired very early on by the dramatic use of light in the works of Rembrandt and Caravaggio. Both had a huge impact on her and have stayed with her to the present day, the lighting being an important part of own work. She also greatly admires Vermeer for the atmospheric and domestic settings he portrays, and Andrew Wyeth particularly the intimacy of the Helga series.

Spratt's paintings which are focused on the female form are glimpses of a simple everyday intimacy. Clothed or nude, she is continually inspired by fabrics and different textures to compliment the figure. She is interested in capturing that fleeting time when a person is unaware of being observed, there is something very honest and private about that moment. Spratt hopes to portray a sense of ambiguity for the viewer to arrive at their conclusions and evoke an emotional connection with the model. She uses a variety of techniques in her painting including glazing which has the ability to bring out amazing colours and depth, although each painting has a slightly varied approach depending on what she feels it requires. Spratt is forever challenging herself to develop her painting skills further and continue to explore the subject.

Adrienne Stein (b. 1986) is an award winning artist living and working in Pennsylvania. She holds an MFA from Boston University and a BFA Magna Cum Laude, from Laguna College of Art & Design. Adrienne studied under many gifted and influential instructors throughout the United States, France, and Italy. Her work forms a bridge to the present, reanimating historical painting genres with fresh insight and imagery. The worlds she paints are inhabited by figures, folklore, archetypes, and natural elements that are fueled by a sense of personal as well as universal myth. Close friends and family members are reinterpreted in lush and magical environments that form the nexus between reality and fantasy, expressed through an unconscious world of symbolic imagery. She has received numerous awards from organizations such as The Portrait Society of America, The Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation, and The Art Renewal Center. Her work is collected in the U.S. and abroad.

Lesley Thiel is known for her highly detailed paintings of figures in motion. Even as a child she was an observer of the world around her, often seeing artistic compositions in the most mundane settings. Her style and choice of subject rely heavily on her love of the beauty she sees as inherent in all living things, and in a desire to share what she sees with the world. It is this motivation that pushed her to draw and paint from childhood, and which is a constant in her artistic journey.

Although technically self taught, Lesley prefers to see herself as having been educated by many. She has spent countless hours in art museums around the world and been heavily influenced by great masters, such as Caravaggio, Rembrandt and Vigee LeBrun. Equally, she has learned invaluable lessons from contemporary classical realism teachers, both through their published texts and through discussion groups.

In her work, Lesley tries to create work that is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also carries deeper meanings. Working in oils, either on canvas or on wood panel, her paintings begin with a detailed drawing, which is followed by underpainting, and then finished with the meticulous details for which she is known. Each work takes many hours to complete.

Lesley was born in England, but has spent much of her life living in Europe and the United States. Her work has been included in numerous exhibitions in the UK, and was part of an ongoing exhibition at Terminal 5 Heathrow to celebrate the 2012 Olympics. Her work is represented in collections throughout the world. Her

painting 'August' was awarded a Certificate Of Excellence by the Portrait Society Of America in their 2015 International Portrait Competition. She lives and works near Charlotte, North Carolina.

Alexandra Tyng (b. 1954 in Rome, Italy) paints people and landscapes, often combining the two genres. She has lived most of her life in the Philadelphia area, and spends part of her summers painting in Maine and other locations. To date, Tyng has had eleven solo exhibitions, most recently in 2017 at the Dowling Walsh Gallery in Rockland, Maine. Three of her paintings have traveled with the Women Painting Women: In Earnest museum show curated by Alia El-Bermani and Diane Feissel. She has received numerous national awards, including Best of Show at the Lore Degenstein Gallery's 8th Annual Figurative Painting and Drawing Exhibition in 2016, the Plein Air Magazine Award in the ARC 2015 Salon, the Curator's Choice Award in the America's Parks I traveling museum exhibition, and 1st Place in the Portrait Society of America's annual Art of the Portrait competition. Her work has been featured in such periodicals as *American Arts Quarterly*, *Plein Air*, *ArtNews*, *Fine Art Connoisseur*, *PoetsArtists*, *International Artist*, and *American Art Collector*; and online publications like *Painting Perceptions* and *The Huffington Post*. In 2012 she was interviewed by art historian and editor Peter Trippi as part of the Artist Audiocast Series sponsored by the Newington-Cropsey Cultural Studies Center. Tyng's paintings reside in the permanent collections of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C., the New Britain Museum, the Springfield Art Museum, and in many corporate, university, and other public and private collections. Tyng is represented by Dowling Walsh Gallery in Rockland, ME; gWatson Gallery in Stonington, ME; and Gross-McCleaf Gallery in Philadelphia, PA.

Victor Wang grew up in Northern China and graduated from The Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts, one of three top art institutes in China. After graduation he taught there for four and a half years and was sent to The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as a visiting scholar. He currently lives in St. Louis, where he teaches painting, drawing and graduate critique classes as a full professor at Fontbonne University. He has exhibited widely across the country and internationally and has won various awards for excellence, including awards for both painting and art instruction. His work has been shown nationally and internationally.

Caroline Westerhout was born in Weert in the Netherlands. She has exhibited in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Portugal. Currently her work is in a group exhibition in Austria.

Anna Wypych is based in Poland and paints realistic portraits in the traditional oil technique. Her art contains elements of Hyperrealism, Surrealism and Expressionism. Anna Wypych received the master's degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in 2011. During her studies received eight national awards and grants. Wypych won the Grand Prix in the national competition Artistic Journey of Hestia 2010, *Pomeranian Artistic Hope* 2011 and the Certificate of Excellence, Palm Art Award 2012, Germany. Wypych's painting is included in the permanent collection of the European Museum of Modern Art, Barcelona, Spain, and National Museum in Gdansk, Poland. She's been included in many juried exhibitions including *BP Portrait Award 2014*, *Modportrait 2014*, *Women Painting Women 2014*, *The Elite of Contemporary Art from Realism to the High Definition*, *Something More Than Realism VIII*, and *11 International 2014-2015 ARC Salon*, *Modportrait 2016*. She is recognized as an ARC Living Master at the Art Renewal Center. She has presented her work in galleries and museums in Europe and the USA. She lives and works in Gdynia.