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Miriam Escofet



A Journey to Portraiture: Miriam Escofet

Miriam Escofet has explored many ideas and subject matter in her work, but the unifying passion in all the paintings is describing a sense of space, volume, atmosphere and detail, arriving at a kind of hyper real expression of the subject matter. These same pictorial concerns govern when she engages in portraiture, a relatively recent theme her work.

Her 'arrival' at painting has been a slightly unusual one, in the sense that she purposely set out to study a skills based 3D Design course, where she specialized in ceramics. Her rationale for this was that she had always loved the making process. Drawing and making are still at the core of Escofet's work, but painting allows her to invent other spaces and ideas with no physical constraints.

She paints mainly in oils, with an extremely detailed technique, applying many layers and glazes to achieve a sense of space and mood. She works at a piece until she feels she has arrived at an expression of palpable space.

Her work is classically inspired and the journey to a painting is multi-disciplinary; often involving the construction of props or elaborate maquettes and the use of complex perspective. Her themes revolve around ideas of aesthetics, imagination and symbolism, including allegorical and archetypal subjects and the idea of magical landscapes and archaic pasts.

She sees paintings as portals - worlds one can visually step into and be transported and sometimes even transformed by. There is a belief that the primary function of art is to trigger a moment of transcendence in the viewer; a sense of timeless connectedness to the universe. In short: to fill one with wonder.

