

HECTOR DIAZ

Duma Arantes
Biography

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The artist at her studio in Lisbon, Portugal | Art & Photo © Duma Arantes

Duma Arantes

B. June 30, 1973 - Lisbon, Portugal.

Duma lived in a small peaceful village near Lisbon during her childhood and teenage years. It was a very happy childhood, playing in the street with lots of children, but at the same time, as an only child, usually playing alone in her bedroom, most of the time drawing and painting dolls and flowers.

At age 21 completed her Advertising Degree in IADE (Art, Design and Marketing Institute). After this she started to study Drawing and Painting at the renowned National Society of Fine Arts in Lisbon. That was a turning point in her life; she knew she had to work with art to be happy.

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Started to exhibit her work in 1994 in Lisbon, in an exhibition for new talents organized by the Lisbon City Council. After that experience never stopped.

Her artistic work is a fascinating exploration of the female figure, characterized by an approach that transcends conventional, by searching into nuances and contrasts. Her characters capture female's dichotomies, also present in human's general behavior.

There is a structural sense of the woman in her paintings, highlighted by the artist's very graphic technique, which causes the image to be constructed in layers, as in levels of color, in a very intelligent engineering of how a figure emerges from the stains. The result turns out to be of remarkable modernity, proving once again the inexhaustibility of artistic possibilities, how plausible it is to find other formulas and different relevance for the representation of human figuration. It is not the intention to reproduce the real, because Duma's technique brings out the plastic mannerism that may be more characteristic of illustration, she just brings or captures a specific moment in life, with a specific feeling or idea shown in a veiled way.

One of her fundamental elements in her work is linked to the mysterious side of life. Duma explores the idea that we cannot see the entire reality, we just see a part, a perspective of the whole, "We never know a person entirely... not even ourselves. There is always an unknown part". The black bars in Duma's paintings show this idea of the unknown; also the idea of cinemascope, as if each painting were a scene from a movie (or a life).

"Because my concept is about the perspectives we have about reality, the way we see only a part of what happens around us, I would like spectators to think about our capacities of looking our days, experiences, events, in a deeper way, opening our minds to see other perspectives in life".

Her creative process generally begins with the selection of a theme, on which she carries out research and experimentation through drawings and studies of graphic and chromatic composition. Although the human figure is the main reference in her work, other elements are used to reinforce the chosen theme. The construction of a series of works usually begins drawing several canvases. After that, Duma begins painting a first layer of paint on all the canvases, adjusting the color tones and analyzing the balance between them. Followed by two more layers of paint to make the colors more homogeneous and opaque. The work is finished with meticulous touches on some details, such as hair, leaves, fabric textures or some small objects in the composition. Works mainly with oil paint but also uses graphite, charcoal, watercolor and mixed media in her drawings and paintings on paper.

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Her work has been shown in many publications around the world, included books, magazines, art catalogues and tv shows.

Her art has been widely recognized and represented by numerous international galleries, spanning cities across Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia and Australia.

With 30 years of career and experience in art, Duma feels fulfilled in her life. Her career and trajectory was a dream come true.



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