



Rhythmical

BRUSHSTROKES

FIGURATIVE ART MOVEMENT IN FLORIDA

November 21st - January 25th, 2020



"I am so thirsty for the marvelous that only the marvelous has power over me." -Anaïs Nin

The marvelous moves across Florida. Criss-crossing baked highways and darting through palmettoes, it's as transient as Florida's population. From Florence and Caracas and the Lower East Side, the marvelous settles into humidity and hibiscus. The artwork in *Rhythmical Brushstrokes* proves that, for its audience, all roads don't end in Rome: rather, they end in Miami, mirroring its scrappy glamor.

In a city sun-drenched with Pantone colors and art fairs, *Rhythmical Brushstrokes* gives us glimpses of velvety dark corners, enigmatic eyes, and splintering narratives. Splintering, fractal, rhythmical. The marvelous moves to a rhythm, pulsing and thrumming to the myriad countries, stories, and truths each artist divines. The roads—and respective rhythms—of each artist converge. *Rhythmical Brushstrokes* possesses all the intricate layers and timing of a symphony, but with the verve and volume of a rock concert. It mixes tuxedo jackets and tight jeans. It mixes centuries of applied elegance with contemporary, multicultural voices.

These rhythms, after all, propel the marvelous which settles from these artists' studios into our very sand. These rhythms move the marvelous across Florida. The marvelous breathes because of the beat.

Lauren Amalia Redding.

RHYTHMICAL BRUSHSTROKES

Figurative Art Movement in Florida



Dario Ortiz Robledo (born September 12, 1968) is a Colombian artist.

Ortiz, a self-taught artist, was born in Ibagué, Colombia. He graduated from the Colegio San Tarsicio in Bogotá in 1986. He studied History and Art Appreciation in the Jorge Tadeo Lozano University in 1990-91. Since 1995, he has been a contributor to the Ibaque newspaper, *El Nuevo Día*. Ortiz publications include the books: *Oscar Rodríguez Naranjo, the painter of beauty* (1996), *Neorealism* (2000), in collaboration with Carol Damian, and the essays *Vásquez de Arce y Ceballos drawings* (2007), *A Brief History of the arts in the territory of Tolima* (2007), and *A novel painted* (2008).

In 2003 Ortiz founded, and is the head of, the Museo de Arte del Tolima in Ibagué.

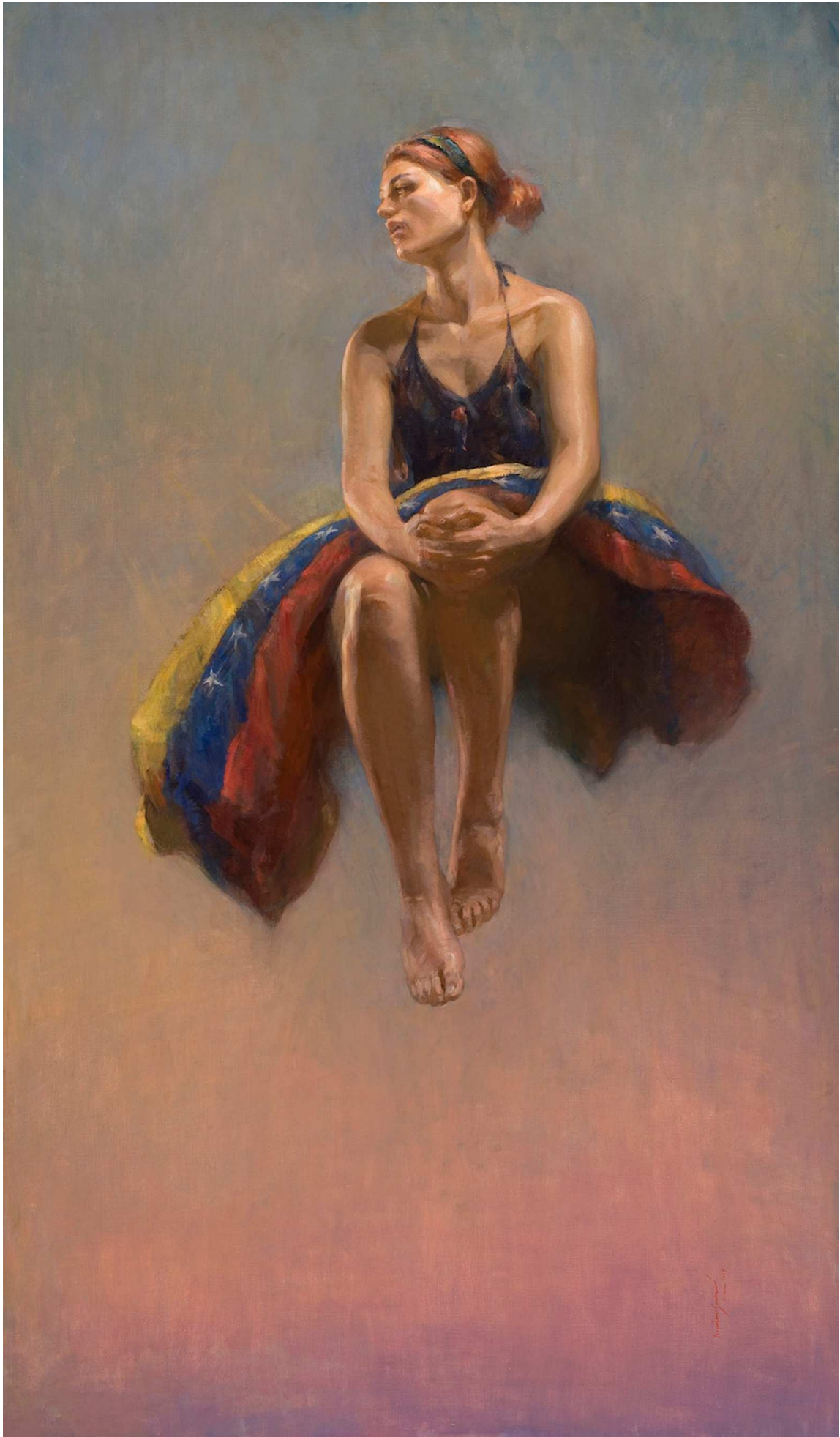


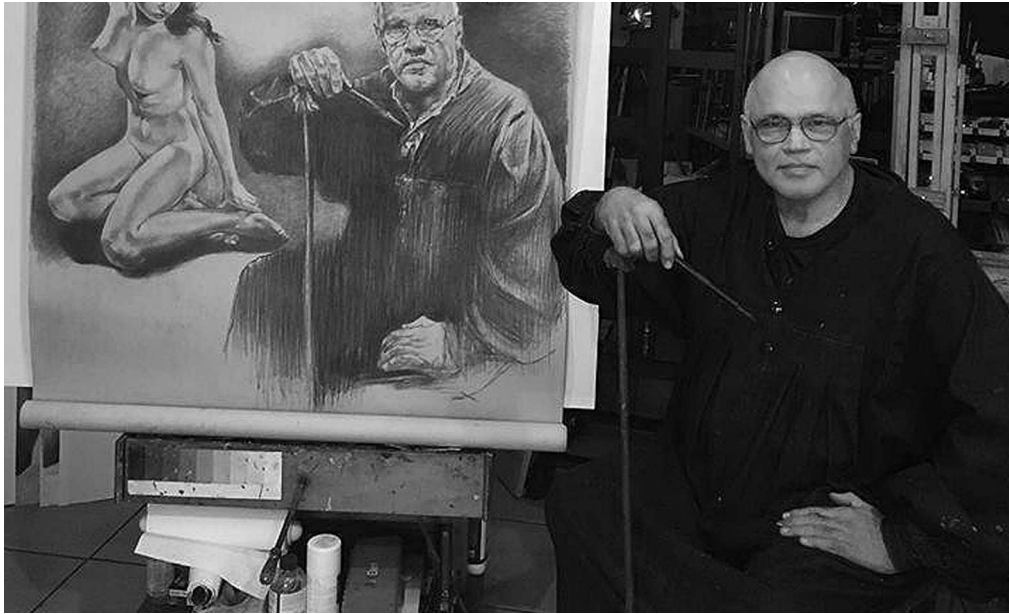


Angel Ramiro Sanchez was born in 1974 in Maracaibo, Venezuela. At age six was accepted with full scholarship into the Instituto the Niños Cantores del Zulia, school for musically gifted children. At age fourteen he began five years of apprenticeship with the realist painter, Abdon J. Romero, an eminent specialist in murals for churches and public buildings. In 1993, a study grant from Mgr. Gustavo Ocando Yamarte, Founder the Niños Cantores, enabled him to travel to Florence, Italy, where he studied at the renowned Accademia di Belle Arti, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1997. At the same time, he was enrolled at The Florence Academy of Art, founded by painter Daniel Graves, where he received a diploma in Painting. Ramiro was appointed senior painting instructor at The Florence Academy of Art in 1997, and is currently Director of the Advanced Painting Program.

Ramiro paints only from life, searching for accuracy beyond physical appearance to reach the psychological state of his subject. He believes the painter must draw his information from "all five senses" to tell the complete human story.

Ramiro's work is predominantly represented by the Grenning Gallery in Sag Harbor, New York, but also Scriba Gallery, Venice, Italy, Jack Meier Gallery, Houston, Tx.





Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela in 1956, **Abdón Romero** began drawing when he received a gift of paper and colored pencils from his grandfather at the young age of four. Years later, he began to paint in watercolors and inks. At eleven he attended Escuela de Artes Plásticas Julio Arraga. Soon thereafter, Master Romero desired to expand his artistic knowledge beyond the basic avant garde principles of the time and set off for a world education of the arts through a retracing of the Renaissance.

Pursuing his love for the Italian Renaissance, Baroque and Naturalism of the XIX century, Master Romero began to teach himself, gathering information from different sources; studying from old books, observing masterpieces at museums, and the legacy of great masters such as Velázquez, Rembrandt, Zorn, Sorolla, Boldini, Sargent and his hero, Arturo Michelena. Master Romero's artistic teachings and studies during this more than twenty year period took him to Spain, United States, Italy, where he had the privilege to learn directly from world renown masters, including Rivas Rius (pastels), Francesc Serra (figure drawing and painting), Guillem Fresquet Bardina (watercolors), Seferino Olive (watercolors), Pablo San Segundo Castañeda (painting), Gabriel Bracho (Murals), Jose Domingo Segrelles (painting).

In 1999, following his extensive acquisition of art history and masterful techniques, Master Romero founded the Abdón J Romero Studios -- the first "atelier" of its kind in Florida.





Yehoshua Villarreal is a Venezuelan artist, who has lived in the United States since 1996, becoming a U.S. Citizen in 2006. He graduated in art in the "Julio Arraga Art School" in Maracaibo and has a degree in Hispanic Literature, Research and Critic Specialist from the University of Zulia, Venezuela.

He has participated in several collective exhibitions in various countries including; United States, France, China, Belgium, Canada, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Venezuela.

He has also participated in major art fairs such as; ART WYNWOOD Miami; ART NAPLES Florida; ART BOCA RATON Florida; PALM BEACH Art Fair; RED DOT Miami; FIA-Iberoamerican Art Fair; FIAAM-International Fair of Art and Antiques of Maracaibo; ARTBO-Bogota International Art Fair; PALM SPRINGS Art Fair; ART MIAMI; ART BASEL; and ART AMERICA among others.

He has had solo exhibitions in Venezuela, Spain, Vienna, Mexico, and the United States of America.





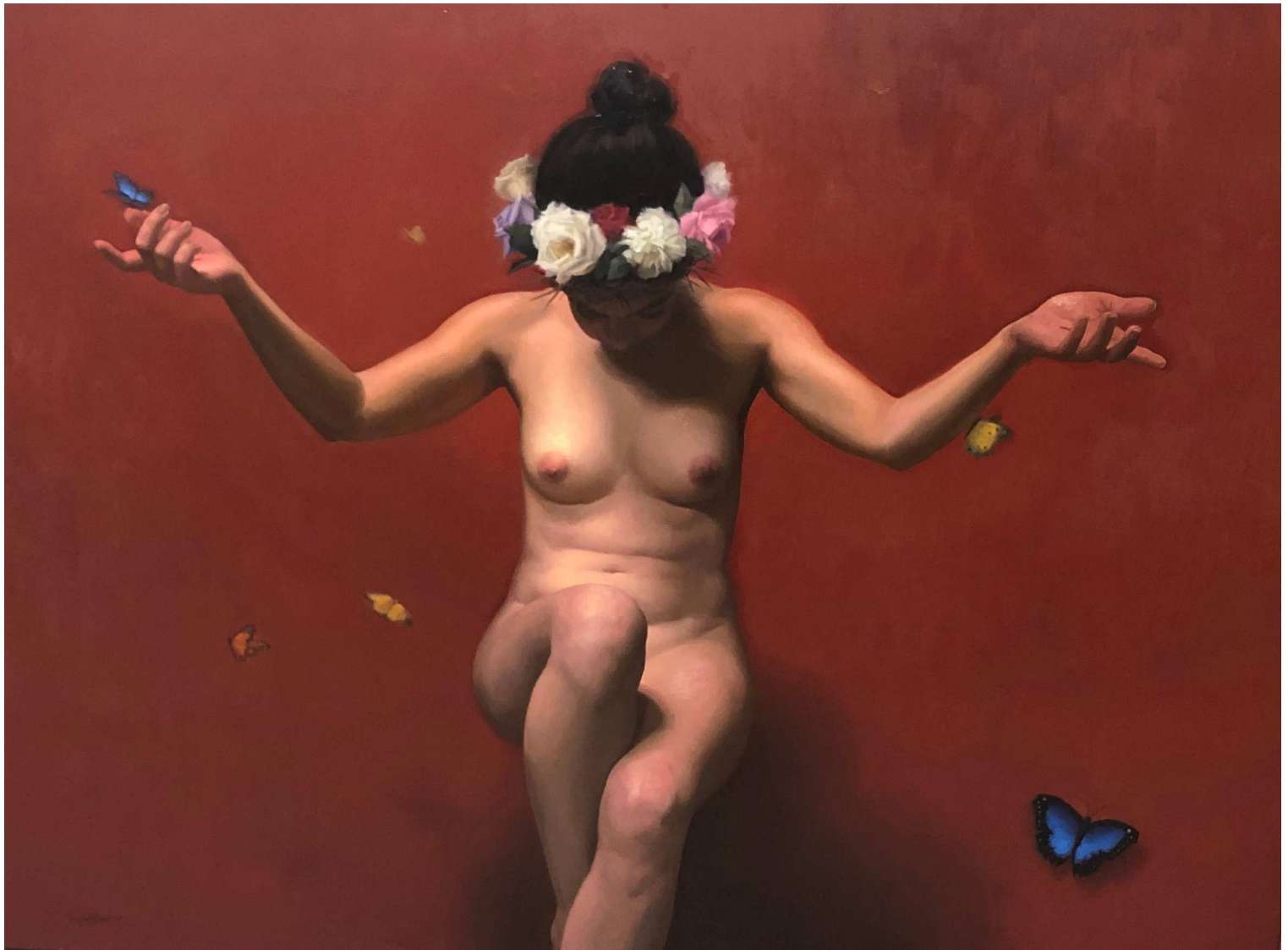
Elkin Canas is a figurative and representational painter who is very interested in human emotions, people and their psychological and spiritual aspects.

He is also interested in the truth and beauty that lies beneath every single object in this world. Honest observation and contemplation is his way to go, most of the time the true beauty is not found on the surface of the subject that is being painted.

One of Elkin's main motivation as a painter is to represent ideas that are often inspired by music that he loves. Trying always to use more than one sense while painting, sounds, smells, feelings and visions are put together in order to find poetry behind every brushstroke.

He uses the human figure as his main subject, surrounding it with objects or symbols to communicate the Idea that he is trying to convey. That is the reason why figure, portrait and Still-life painting are so important in his work.

"There are two main kind of figurative painters, those who want to say something trough their panting, "the storytellers" and those who want to paint even the smallest object trying to find the beauty that lies beneath the simplest things, the "beauty finders." I combine the two in my own personal work." -Elkin C.





Jesus Emmanuel Villareal has been recognized for his artistic abilities since his early teen years in Miami, Florida, where he studied at the South Miami School of Arts while taking additional studio instruction with Abdon J. Romero. He earned his B.F.A. from Maryland Institute College of Art, in Baltimore in 2006, and then spent three years studying and graduating from The Florence Academy of Art. Upon returning to America, the artist started teaching at The Silvermine Arts Center, in New Canaan, Connecticut, and was a guest lecturer at the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, in Old Lyme, Connecticut.

Later also teaching at the brand new branch of The Florence Academy of Art in New Jersey. Over his career, Villareal has won numerous awards, scholarships, and honors, including the coveted Grand Prize in the 2011 Portrait Society of America's International Portrait Competition, the Art Renewal Center's Annual Scholarship Competition, and The Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant among others.

He has shown his work in several group and solo exhibitions in America and abroad. Recently his work can be found in the permanent collection of the New Britain Museum of American Art and is currently showing at Forum Gallery in New York.





Brett Harvey was born in 1985 in Boston, Massachusetts. He currently works and resides in Naples, Florida with his wife, artist and writer Lauren Amalia Redding. He grew up in New Hampshire and attended the New Hampshire Institute of Art where he obtained a BFA in Painting. Brett had discovered an interest in sculpture a few years into his bachelor's program and slowly his focus shifted toward three dimensional art. After spending time as a museum preparator, he attended the New York Academy of Art, where he met his wife and focused his attention on studying sculpture and the figure.

Following his formal education he lived and worked in Queens, New York for seven years.

During that time he worked as a fabricator and the lead installation specialist for another artist. This afforded him the opportunity not only to expand and refine his fabrication experience, but also to travel and spend time working in museums, both things impacting him tremendously and extending his educational experience. During this time his love of concrete was cemented, and he began experimenting with new concrete technology and other common building materials to bring relevance and accessibility to his figurative sculpture, which he showed primarily in New York City and other parts of the Northeast.

In 2018, he and his wife, Lauren, relocated to establish H&R Studio, in Naples, Florida. Both Brett and Lauren merge informed technique with sincere content within their own artwork, and created their studio as a platform for sharing those ideas. They both teach privately and create their own work along Florida's Gulf Coast.

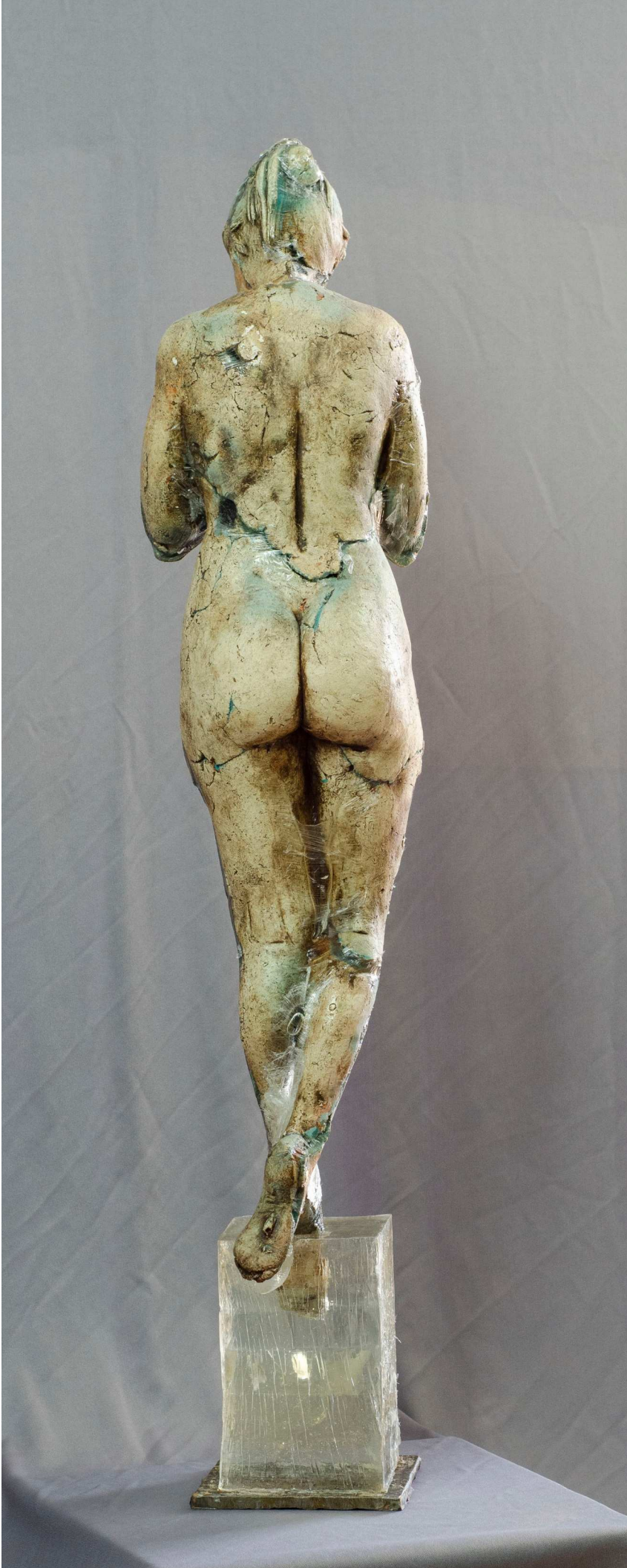




Adriano Ríos Sossa was born in Lórica, Córdoba, Colombia, on October 28, 1962. He graduated from Colegio de la Esperanza in Cartagena de Indias and received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Jorge Tadeo Lozano University in Bogotá.

He completed postgraduate studies in Management and Ibero-American Cultural Cooperation at the University of Barcelona, Spain, in 1997; In 2000 he held the UNESCO Chair – Integral Management of Heritage in Historic Centers organized by the Ministry of Culture, UNESCO and the National University of Colombia; He attended the II Subregional Seminar on Training in Cultural Policies OEI.

Adriano professes that knowledge does not come from the mere accumulation of knowledge, but from the constant resignification of knowledge. From his stay in Fine Arts he understood that it was not enough to include jars or vueltiaos hats in his still lifes, if he did not establish an organic relationship between knowledge, his homeland and his person. There is a moment in which all experiences are located and fall back to take a new leap, and were the affectionate “slap” felt by his teachers who confirmed the sentence that now continues as dogma in his life: the originality is to return to the origin.





Sonia Hidalgo was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela.

She completed five years B.F.A in Fine Arts, minor in Education at Cecilio Acosta Catholic University in Venezuela. She has a deep and well-rounded education including studying with Master Painters Abdón J. Romero, Daniel Gerhartz, Morgan Weistling, Jeremy Lipking and Daniel Graves.

In a few short years, Sonia Hidalgo has rapidly built a reputation as a teacher, director and finest contemporary realist painter. She is currently living and working in Miami, USA.

Since moving here over a decade ago she has concentrated in the fine art instruction field and pursuing a career as an artist.

Her teaching and working experience includes the Art Florida Academy (formerly Romero Hidalgo Artists' Studios), where she has become a mainstay as an instructor of painting and drawing and Director also.

Hidalgo's works are steeped in tradition yet possess a timeless beauty that is at the same time quite contemporary.

The artist achieves a strong feeling of naturalism by creating a harmonious set of visual relationships that accurately reflect the nature of the subjects as it relates to its environment. Hidalgo is clearly fascinated with the human nature. As a result, a haunting inner beauty and deep complex thoughts often characterize many of Hidalgo's figurative pieces.





Since an early age, **Tere Jessurum Uribe** showed her love for drawing by spending most of her free time sketching mainly faces and figures from memory. After an engineering career, emigrating to the United States, establishing a successful business venture and raising my children, it was time to commit to her longtime life passion. She then started a never-ending journey of artistic development studying with local private teachers, attending workshops with contemporary masters both in Europe (including Florence, Italy, I attended summer sessions at both Angel Academy and Florence Academy) also, in North America as well, plus avidly experimenting and learning on my own, through numerous videos and art books.

Always fascinated by the complexity of expression and emotion in the human figure, it was no wonder she followed with certainty the realistic and classical approach, focusing her work on portrait and Figure Painting. Within this scope, one of her favorite subjects is the colorful fruit selling ladies of African origin, called “Palenqueras,” that circulate in the coastal city of Cartagena, which she was so close to during her infancy. These hard-working women, often photographed by tourists, roam the city selling their sweets and fruit salads. Tere feels drawn to their stunning colorful dresses, jewelry, and sparkle, their tired expression but natural smiles in spite of generations of poverty.





Carlos Martínez León was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela on July 18th, 1984. He displayed an early love of art, drawing and painting pictures of his favorite childhood toys, the Ninja Turtles. It is of great interest that his first Ninja Turtles models, Michaelangelo, Leonardo, Donatello, and Rafael, were named after the great painters of the Italian Renaissance. These painters, who have been the focus of European study, serve as inspiration for Carlos current work.

In 2007, Carlos obtained his degree in graphic design from La Universidad del Zulia in Venezuela. He was then admitted to The Florence Academy of Art, where he studied from 2007 to 2010, where he mastered his drawing and painting techniques. In his final year of study, he worked as an assistant professor of drawing to Simona Dolci, Director of Intensive Drawing.

Immediately after his graduation, he remained in Florence where he continued his training in painting under the direction of Ángel Ramiro Sánchez, a Venezuelan Realist painter and Director of Advanced Painting at The Florence Academy of Art. Said Ramiro Sanchez “I have always found that Carlos captures the essence of his subject, their humanity and soul. His fine technique and bravura are at the service of his art.”





Milixa Morón is best known for her mystical, allegorical and symbolic pieces, where depicts characters or symbols of different eras, centuries and believes.

She is a Venezuelan-Italian figurative realist painter with residence in USA, born in 1977 and her interest in drawing and painting began early in childhood.

At the beginning of 2007 began at the Angel Academy of Art in Florence-Italy where finished her studies in December 2009. Then found an studio in a community called Art Space (for 2 years) in there could develop better her research in symbolism as well as the technique learned at Angel Academy together with the fundamentals of the Florence Academy as there were some alumni from it.

After moved out and for one more year had a studio in the beautiful Florence together with her husband that is an artist too (the artist **Elkin Cañas**), where they painted and taught. At the same time Milixa was following the program "La scuola libera del nudo" at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze.

In August 2013 they moved to Miami-USA and founded an academy called Chiaroscuro Atelier.





Carlos Lopez (b. 1975) is a Nicaraguan American, classically trained, realist painter. Born in Nicaragua, he began to show interest in drawing and painting at a very early age. In 1986, he moved to Miami, Florida, where he spent his formative years and early adulthood. While still in high school, he attended evening uninstructed figure drawing classes at the University of Miami.

Shortly after, he became an apprentice to Luciano Franchi de Alfaro III at the Byzantium Mosaic Workshop, where he gained hands-on experience in daily studio operation in regards to the creation of public, and private, mosaic projects.

In 2005, he relocated to New York City and, within a year, enrolled in classes and workshops at the Grand Central Academy of Art, where he undertook rigorous training in traditional drawing and painting for the next five years. With knowledge and confidence in his art, he set up his own studio and produced a body of work that has led to many different opportunities, including painting commissions, exhibitions, and art competitions. In 2015, he was awarded one of the top prizes from the highly reputable Portrait Society of America.

After fourteen years residing in New York City, he moved back to Miami to establish his studio, First Line Atelier, where drawing and painting instruction is offered.

51-27
MPLXVIII





John Sanchez was born in Passaic, NJ and grew up in the blue-collar town of North Bergen New Jersey. His upbringing is the origin of the working-class attitude he brings to his work. He blends traditional painting techniques with a contemporary subject matter, creating paintings of moments that urge to be contemplated in all their reality. Sanchez attributes the bulk of his training to the prestigious Arts Student's League of New York and is a graduate of Miami International University of Art & Design, and holds a Masters of Fine Art degree from Florida International University.

His work has caught the attention of collectors including Debra and Dennis Scholl, Bill Bilowit and Grela Orihuela, Tom and Trish Kennedy, Carl Icahn and Barry Sternlicht. He is also in the permanent collection of the Perez Art Museum in Miami, the Frost Art Museum at FIU as well as having an international following. He lives and works in South Florida.





Eduardo Angel's work revolves around curiosity and study. I observe life carefully, get lost in the visual intricacies, and try to unravel its mysteries in ways that interest me. I thrive in the process of my translation as it allows for my work to constantly evolve and for my style to organically transpire rather than me trying to always define it.

These two profile studies are prime examples of that. One in graphite and the other in charcoal. Each depicting my translation through light, form, and geometric shapes.

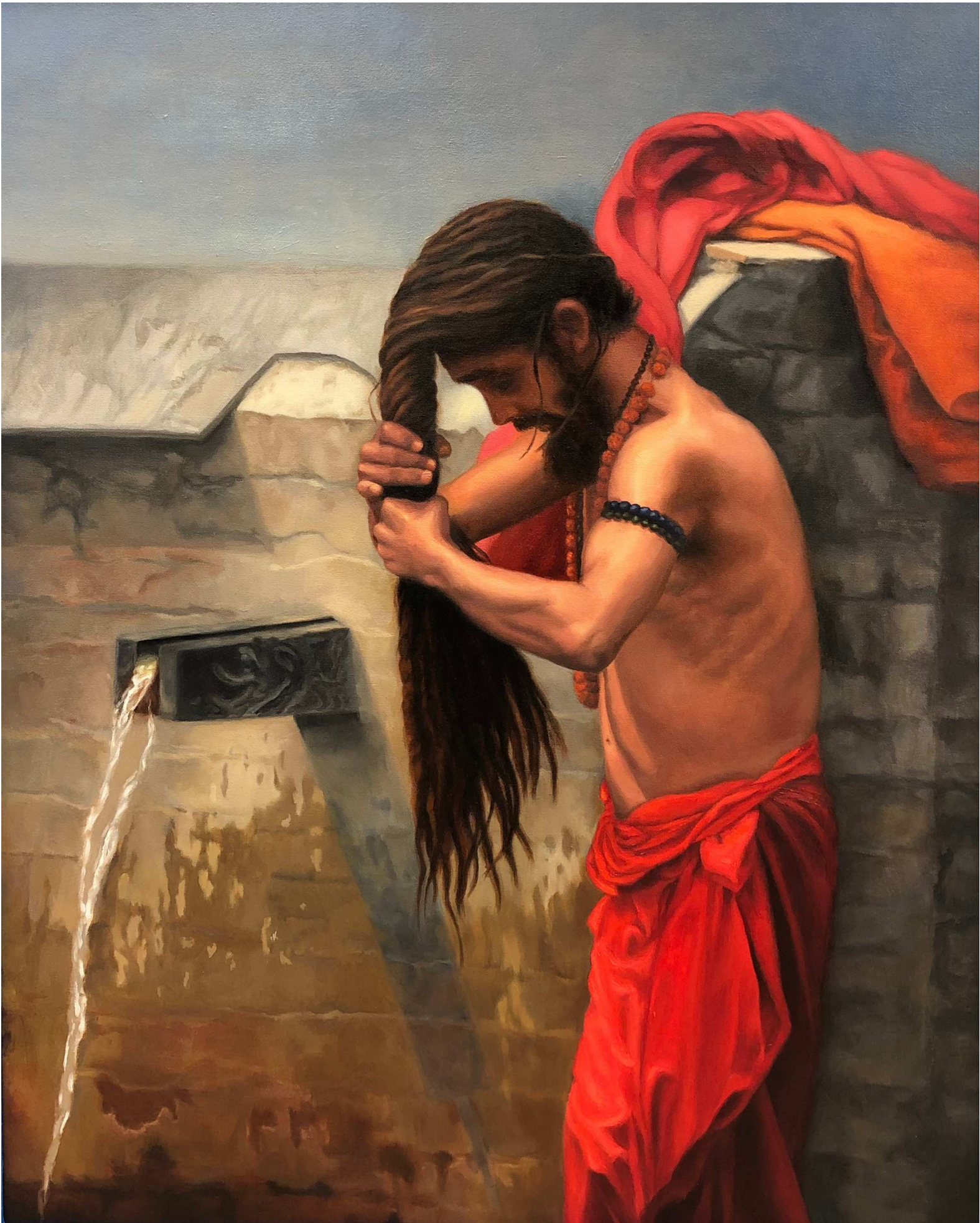




Cuban-born **Mercedes Cisneros** is a contemporary realist painter residing in Miami, Florida. She immigrated to the United States with her family as a teenager, graduating from Rutgers University Law School and embarking in a successful law career until her passion for art took her in a different path.

Mercedes studied the rigorous academic methods of painting and drawing at Chiaroscuro Studio of Art. She has also taken numerous painting and drawing workshops with American living Masters. Her style is deeply influenced by pre-renaissance gothic religious paintings with predominant use of gold leaf in and around the figure.

For Mercedes, her paintings are the means of expressing an emotion at a given moment in time. She often portraits women's self imposed emotional burdens, restrains, obligations and responsibilities towards the family. Mercedes is also very much involved in Miami's art community, serving for four years as Chairman of the City of Miami Arts and Entertainment Council.





Salvador Zarate (b.1983) is a Contemporary representational artist currently living and working in Miami, Florida.

His work focuses predominantly on the human figure and is inspired by nature. He graduated from the prestigious Angel Academy of Art in Florence, Italy in 2014.

His works have been exhibited in Italy (2012-2014), Florida (2015-2018) and are in private collections in Europe, North America and South America.

"My goal is to create works that capture human emotions, the freshness of nature and the simple beauty of ordinary everyday objects, by following the steps of the Old Masters, with a contemporary vision".



365
ORGANIC
Canned Beans
vigo

S. Jants



Within **Lauren Amalia Redding's** art practice, she draws upon two primary influences: her mother's Cuban family and their cultural and personal legacies, and the meticulous draftsmanship that constitutes her technical fulcrum. She primarily work in the anachronistic medium of silverpoint, drawing with a piece of silver or gold in a stylus to create delicate works that require focus, have no room for error, and possess a tangible yet fleeting quality evocative of memory and narrative.

Line and shadow are woven so that, from their neat labyrinth, the sentiment and psyche of my subject emerges more truthfully. Lauren wants to ensure that the faces of those who suffered under totalitarianism—like her own family—are recorded

so that their history can be remembered. It's her own autobiographical way of paying homage to the journey and inherent beauty of those who, though despondent, emerge victorious.





Orlando Adriani (Hormiga) is a Venezuelan entrepreneur. After 21-year career in Venezuela decided to emigrate and settle in US. With his own company and some equipment reaches South Florida (Miami) to reinvent himself and occupy positions of importance within the Latin market. After working on HBO in Caracas, company with which he made many trips, many television programs, festivals, interviews, commercials, news, and everything, just with the idea of learning from the office.

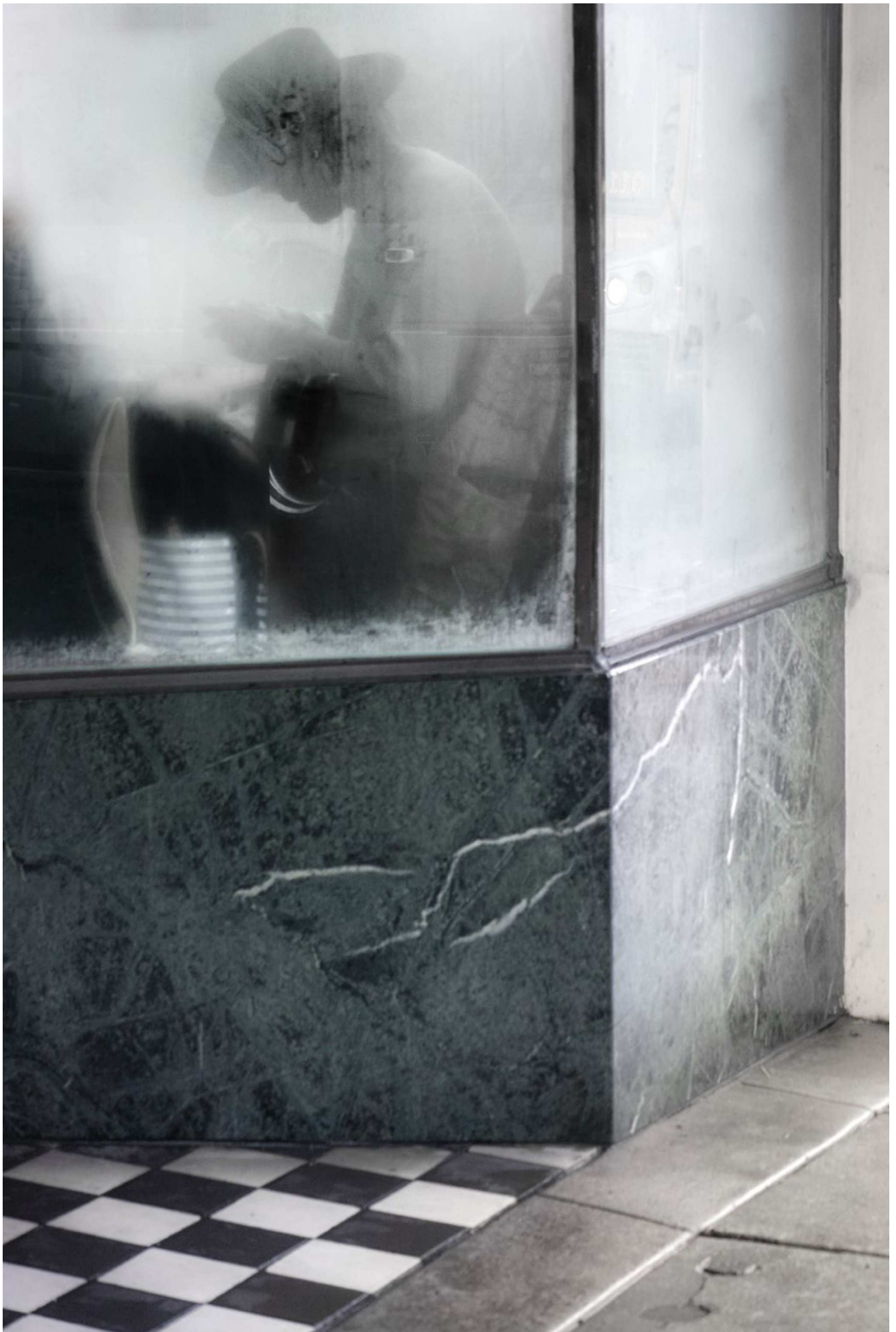
"My school was the best school of all, the outdoor classrooms, teachers 24 hours to teach students, or rather, comrades, from the newest apprentice to the most experienced."

In 2015 he worked with a group of Venezuelans living in Miami, to make a [commercial for a tattoo shop](#). With which he won his first Emmy for cinematography. Then in 2016 makes a [video](#), about a Venezuelan urban artist. "I said I would do a mural and offer him give her a video so he could project his talent Who knew that this noble and simple idea made me win two Emmys!!!





Zuhal Erdem was born and grew up in Istanbul, Turkey. She received her B.A. in Sociology. Art was her passion so she followed her dream and moved to Los Angeles to be an artist. She expresses herself through photography. Her photography is mostly about mystery in daily life. Also she does abstract photographs. Recently she moved to Miami.





Diane Reeves is an award-winning artist who enjoys painting a wide variety of subjects interwoven with positive themes. Her abiding passion for art was sparked as she traveled one summer with her aunt throughout Europe. She was nearly fourteen when they wandered from country to country, visiting tiny villages and iconic cities – where Diane became mystified as to how anyone could create such masterpieces.

The architecture and sculptures were simply breathtaking, and the paintings intrigued her even more. Finally, in 2007, Diane attended her very first painting workshop with a much beloved and renowned portrait artist who told her, “All you need is mileage behind the brush!” That bright flicker of encouragement propelled her onward for the next few years, and in 2012, she left her full time career to become a professional artist. She has received numerous top awards at local, regional and national exhibitions and her work has been featured in several prestigious art magazines.

Although Diane has been creating luminous floral still life pieces for the last few years, she is now returning to a variety of subjects and is especially excited to create portrait and landscape pieces - though she'll continue to pursue her floral and still life work, too.

Diane, a popular instructor, offers color mixing and floral workshops each summer around the country, and teaches one day each week at the Boca Raton Museum Art School, in Boca Raton, Florida.



*“A veces en las tardes una cara
nos mira desde el fondo de un espejo;
el arte debe ser como ese espejo
que nos revela nuestra propia cara”.*

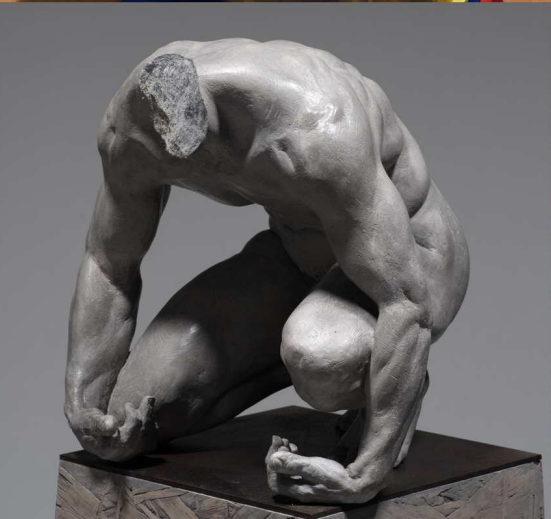
Jorge Luis Borges.

El deseo primordial del artista figurativo es representar la realidad a través de la forma y el color mediante un lenguaje que bien pudiera llamarse universal en la medida en que es accesible a la inmensa mayoría. Dicha realidad es expresada a su vez mediante una voz particular. Cada artista imprime a su obra su propio modo de ver y de sentir y en ese sentido una misma realidad puede tener visiones múltiples.

El lenguaje de 22 artistas figurativos -fotógrafos, pintores y escultores-, presente en la muestra Rhythmical Brushstrokes, con la que MIFA Gallery inaugura sus espacios, reafirma plenamente la vigencia del arte figurativo y permite al espectador ser partícipe de esta necesidad ancestral que tiene el hombre de rendir homenaje a la belleza, de formular preguntas, de dialogar con la naturaleza.

Rhythmical Brushstroke, marca el inicio de una agenda expositiva abierta a todas las tendencias y formas de expresión de las artes plásticas y audiovisuales, orientada a enriquecer el panorama artístico de Miami.

Edith Monge Silva



WWW.MIFAGALLERY.COM

FEATURING

Darío Ortíz, Ramiro Sánchez, Yehoshua Villarreal, Abdón Romero, Jesús E. Villarreal
Tere Jessurum Uribe, Elkin Cañas, Milixa Morón, Mercedes Cisneros, Carlos Martínez León
Eduardo Angel, Sonia Hidalgo, Zuhail Erdem, Lauren Redding, Brett Harvey, Carlos López
Nina Rodriguez, Salvador Zárata, John Sánchez, Diane Reeves, Orlando Adriani and Luis Gil