



Ingrid Roeder McMillan is a Canadian painter who lives in Winnipeg. Her work is consistently about the human experience in this digital age. Each body of work consists of multiple oil paintings, sometimes in a range of different media, grouped around specific themes and meanings. During research and production new ideas lead to the next body of paintings. Ingrid holds BFA honours and a Master's art education degree, both obtained at the University of Manitoba, Canada. Click here to view <http://www.ingridmcmillan.com>

Artist Statement, 2018

My work continues to be about our evolving consciousness in the face of daily distractions. Social media facilitates communication but restricts human interaction. I am curious about our increasing addiction to social media and am examining questions about who we are becoming. My paintings show theatre stages as platforms for playing to an invisible audience, our thousands of virtual friends. The audience both project and consume the object fantasy, like a selfie filtered by a phone screen. The small Selfies, I imagine our fantasized gaze of how we might be viewed by others as self-objectifying, where no amount of careful contriving of who we project satisfies that we are seen the way we want to be seen. I consider the tension between wanting to be loved and fearing rejection as the addiction hook programmed by social media engineers, as we are increasingly held hostage, scrolling infinitely to stay connected. What are the risks to our well-being when our self worth relies heavily on digital validation? When we relinquish our autonomy to social media, what are the implications to our consciousness? How do we know life in the absence of virtual connection?