

## FIRST LOOK

# New Drawings by Alexey Steele



This June, American Legacy Fine Arts, in Pasadena, California, will present “Torn Beauty,” a new exhibition of drawings and paintings by Alexey Steele. With a focus on the female form, the works take on themes that have inspired artists and patrons throughout the history of art. In these small-scale, delicately toned pieces, the Ukrainian-born artist uses traditional materials dating back to the Renaissance to portray the female body as a source of mystery and passion.

Steele has pulled from classical motifs and influences throughout his career, most often in an effort to situate representational painting and drawing in a 21<sup>st</sup>-century context. In one way, the drawings in “Torn Beauty” represent a change of pace for Steele, who is best known for large-scale figure paintings. But like his previous work, these artworks give a modern spin to traditional styles. Steele’s drawings boldly focus on the nude female figure, embracing sensuality with a directness that is decidedly contemporary.

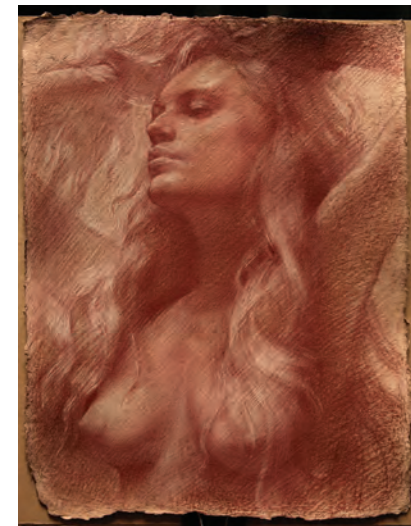
### ABOVE LEFT

#### Torso

2012, charcoal on handmade cotton paper, 9 x 9. All artwork this article courtesy American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena, California



Steele’s materials—charcoal, pastel, and handmade paper—also link his work to the past. The drawings evoke the soft, gently worn look of earlier eras, but their construction is unusual. Each drawing is mounted to an individually painted panel, making the final work a mixed media piece. In both form and subject, the artist blends the traditional with the modern, encouraging us to look more closely and question how we view the beauty that the drawings confront us with. ❖



### THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

#### Floating Dream

2012, charcoal on handmade cotton paper, 9 x 9.

#### First Light

2012, charcoal on handmade cotton paper, 9 x 9.

#### New Day

2012, sepia and pastel pencil on handmade cotton paper, 18 x 14.

### ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

“ALEXEY STEELE:  
TORN BEAUTY”  
WILL BE ON DISPLAY

AT AMERICAN LEGACY FINE ARTS,  
IN PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, FROM  
JUNE 2 TO JUNE 30. FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.AMERICANLEGACYFINEARTS.COM](http://WWW.AMERICANLEGACYFINEARTS.COM).