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Contemporary Women Artists

A selection of today's leading realist and surrealist painters discuss their artwork.

BY VERONICA WINTERS

Realism is coming back! Lost to decades of abstract art, contemporary figurative painting is experiencing a rebirth in a variety of styles. Contemporary figurative artists are becoming more popular among the gallerists and collectors alike, and with that the female artists rise and take part in more art shows than ever. Let's look at the roundup of some women painters who continue the tradition of classical painting, yet are subjected to modern times and revelations.

Every artist wants to achieve a unique voice in art that becomes a record of emotions, experiences and history. Many are influenced by Baroque painting, wish to find purpose or to depict the duality in everyday life. Yet, the approaches to painting are vastly different. In this interview, painters answer a single question: **What do you want others to see in your art?**

With such wonderful group of contemporary female painters, the American art scene is destined to flourish and thrive.



Margo Selski

Margo Selski creates a fairy tale universe depicting her family secrets in the surreal paintings. These are tightly balanced, emotional riddles often starring her children dressed in elaborate clothing. While the narratives seem fantastical, they are autobiographical since every artist depicts parts of herself in art. Every painting shows duality that creates tension. Every painting is a world of fragile self-exploration and heightened emotions. There is a sense of passing time that flows through fantasy that becomes a hidden reality. Influenced by Flemish painting, the artist also plays with the medium, creating false craquelure where lines look like cracks in old paint.

The Daughters of Atlantics: Passing the Torch, oil and beeswax on canvas, 40 x 30". Courtesy RJD Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY.

"By using a safe and familiar composition, my goal is to lull the viewer into a false sense of comfort and familiarity, where they are drawn to images, which, upon further viewing, become curious, uncomfortable and perhaps even dangerous."

"I would like for viewers to get more interested in learning about aesthetics."

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Teresa Oaxaca

Dolls, dolls, dolls! A beautiful obsession, a dream, a collision of past and present. Washington, D.C.-based artist Teresa Oaxaca creates large paintings that inherit the exuberance of the Baroque and Rococo periods. Her oil paintings become records of lush compositions with clowns, women, fabric and dolls reminiscent of rich artistic history, especially Italy. Classically trained at the Florence Academy in Italy, the artist mesmerizes us with her skillful drawings and vivid oil paintings that depict figures talking, crying or smiling at us. Dressed like a beautiful doll herself, Oaxaca embodies her paintings visually during the artist receptions and workshops held internationally.

Somnambulant Clown, oil on canvas, 48 x 32"