

Artists Statement

Alberto Nasti

The advent of faster and more powerful computers has brought digitization to much of our human needs and interactions. These include phones, email, production and delivery of photography, music, TV, shopping, even salaries, and bill payments occur digitally.

I started as a figure and landscape painter in oils, having studied with artists such as Jason Berger for painting and Nathan Goldstein for drawing. I eventually moved to photography and then became interested in developing a traditional painterly aesthetic but using tools representative of this digital age.

The use of digital tools brings dichotomies, where canvas texture is not related to the act of painting on canvas but a design or texture choice similar to how cubists used newspaper clippings or wallpaper in their paintings. In a digital environment, paint strokes are not paint but represent paint as another design element. Cezanne and then the cubists fractured reality to show a still life from multiple views in one singular view. Surrealists dramatically break reality to bring another state of awareness. In a similar way, I fracture a space to ask the question, what is real? A question even more layered working in a digital medium.

Coryphee is the term for a ballet dancer who is an in-between, that is in-between a member of the corps de ballet and a soloist; perhaps a fitting subject for work that is between digital and traditional mediums. Each Coryphee series represents one ballet pose, which acts as a vehicle for abstracting a paradox of the definite and geometric, fluid and amorphous, real and unreal. Coryphee allows me to express visual thoughts as part of and apart from the subject, a place where beauty itself is an abstraction.

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