

10/13/18

NADINE ROBBINS

AMERICAN (B.1966)

Resides in USA

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ARTIST STATEMENT

As our current cultural climate threatens to encroach on freedom of choice, expression, sexuality and equity, my work serves to echo the reality of the American experience, one that is diverse, fluid and multifaceted. My nude and portrait paintings tell the stories of ordinary people from all walks of life paired with a sense of defiance and irreverence for societal norms regarding gendered ideas of behavior, identity, and sexuality.

The construction of a painterly image can take months and as such responds to the historic legacy of portraiture, while expressing a distinctly contemporary experience of the world. While my process is undeniably ensconced in the ways of academic painting, my subjects are by no means the traditional type; rather I search for people who have a certain emotional clarity and as well may be unconventional in their personal expression of sexuality. They might meet your glance head on, while still others just have a remarkable beauty that seems somehow unusual. Many of my subjects seem to reveal their inner lives in the portraits.

In much of my work I try to subvert relationships between the model and the audience, allowing a dialogue between the two to begin. The composition of each defiant portrait is achieved by finding that place between the humorous and poignant, a kind of intimacy that goes beyond my relationship with the model. These sensations are an important part of my practice. For example, intimacy and a certain tenderness is also at the core of my *Oyster* still life series. These studies of the inner beauty of such succulent creatures express a certain robust appreciation of the tactile, the feminine and as such my identity as a woman. This is further reflected in my rebellious nude works, and I would ask my viewers to consider that I am a woman painting nude women, and as such my work reflects both the challenge and richness of this experience. It seems that my subjects seem to emerge from my pictures alternately bold and vulnerable and yet always beautiful even in the most unusual ways. This layered intimacy is meant to reflect the diverse nature of the human experience. Such inclusiveness and complexity of intention connects my work to the current of realist work today, a new seditious genre that simultaneously embraces studio painting and engages in questions of identity, race, beauty, and gender.

BIOGRAPHY

American painter Nadine Robbins' contemporary style is distinguished by a masterly command of academic painting techniques paired with an irreverence for rules, gender and beauty. Much of the painter's practice focuses on themes of defiance, and a singular form of eroticism that is

presented from a new and unexpected perspective. In particular, Robbins has earned great admiration for her iconoclastic nudes, as well as an ongoing series of portraits that oscillate between the mysterious and the candid. There is also a remarkable group of oyster still life paintings that in their lush precision seem to achingly intersect genres of eroticism and the still life.

Overall, Robbin's use of luscious jewel toned paint and high-fidelity realism ties the artist to the late twentieth century and contemporary traditions of hyper-realism, photo-realism, and super-realism. Like Chuck Close, the artist uses a similar photographic and painterly process to produce dynamic contemporary portraits. Robbins' montage-like use of atelier technique and way of working adds to the oeuvre, a studied complexity that is enticing and refined.

It can be said that Robbin's work is decidedly at the intersection of identity politics presenting the feminine form in new and unexpected ways, allowing a dynamic to evolve between the viewer and the viewed, and as well upsetting the traditional roles of the male gaze and the feminine subject. This inversion of accepted norms and structures of power is related to a trend in contemporary art, seen in current practitioners such Kehinde Wiley wherein the artist's painting of ordinary people is set within symbolic structures and emblematic themes. Robbins for her part uses the genre of portraiture and nudity to express a similar sense of irreverence for societally assigned roles, and as well uses her work to evoke a feminine perspective or sense of sexuality, eroticism and self. More recently, the artist has been experimenting with the use of abstraction within realist picture planes, expanding on her idea of expression and form.

As well as a solo exhibition at Brill Gallery, Massachusetts, 2009 Robbins has shown widely in group shows such as Perspectives of the American Experience, American Women Artists, Rockwell Museum, Corning, New York, 2018; Figurative Masters, Arcadia Contemporary, Culver City, California; The Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art, Wisconsin; Women Painting Women, RJD Gallery, South Hampton, New York; The 12th Annual Group Show, International Guild of Realism, Winfield Gallery, Carmel, California; Dissent; Sparrow Gallery; Attention to Detail, Robert Lange Studios, Charleston, South Carolina and Formation, A Painting Survey in conjunction with Poets & Artists, Bernarducci.Meisel, New York, New York.

Robbins is the recipient of a grant from the Puffin Foundation, 2017 and in 2015, Robbins was selected for the special feature Poets and Artists, 50 Memorable Painters and was listed as one of top figurative painters working now by BuzzFeed, 2017. The artist's work may be found in several important private collections, most notably the Howard A. & Judith Tullman Collection, Chicago and The [Count-Ibex Collection](#), Germany.

SELECTED SOLO, GROUP AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS

2019

20 años, en 20x20, Galería Artelibre, 1999-2019, Saragoza, Spain

Painting The Figure II, [Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art](#) (WMOCA) WI

[Greenwich/Westchester International Art Fair](#), February 28- March 3, Purchase, NY

2018

10th Annual Nude Exhibit, Manifest Gallery, OH
13th Annual group show, International Guild of Realism, [Sugarman Peterson Gallery](#),
Sante Fe, NM
Recipe, [The Vendue](#) in association with [Robert Lange Gallery](#), Charleston, SC
Fresh Start Collective, Hamptons Juried Art Show to benefit [The Retreat](#), RJD Gallery, NY
Perspectives of the American Experience, 2018 Annual National Juried Exhibition,
American Women Artists, [Rockwell Museum](#), Corning, NY

2017

Big Art Small Canvas, RJD Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY
First Annual Juried Exhibition, Curated by Alyssa Monks, [Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art](#)
(WMOCA) WI
Poets and Artists, Arcadia Contemporary, Culver City, CA
[Women Painting Women](#), RJD Gallery, South Hampton, NY
12th Annual group show, International Guild of Realism, [Winfield Gallery](#), Carmel, CA
Dissent, [Sparrow Gallery](#), Sacramento, CA
[Attention to Detail](#), Robert Lange Studios, Charleston, SC
Formation, A Painting Survey in conjunction with [Poets & Artists](#), [Bernarducci.Meisel](#),
New York, NY

2016

Chévere, Sirona Fine Arts, Hallandale Beach, FL
[Art, Oysters, and The Billion Oyster Project](#), Starr Library, Rhinebeck, NY
[Women Painting Women](#), RJD Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY
[TWELVE](#), Robert Lange Studios, Charleston, SC
Reinventing Ourselves from a Different Point of View, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL
Nudes Beyond the Prado, Brill Gallery, North Adams, MA
40 years, 40 artists, The Mark Gruber Gallery, New Paltz, NY
[2016 Mod Portrait](#), Sala Bantierra de Zaragoza, Zaragoza and Museo Meam de Barcelona,
Spain
[Freak Out!](#), Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL

2015

Trio Exhibition, [Oil Water Bronze](#), Sirona Fine Arts, Hallandale Beach, FL
7th Annual NUDES Exhibition, [Manifest Gallery](#), Cincinnati, OH
[Immortality and Vulnerability](#), Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL
The Artists gaze: Seeing women in the 21st Century, Sirona Fine Arts, Hallandale Beach, FL

2014

Art Undressed, International Nude Art Exhibition, Miami, FL
Fixation, [Zhou B Art Center](#), Chicago, IL

2013

In The Flesh 4, [Target Gallery](#), Alexandria, VA

Current Hues of the Hudson, [Bethel Woods Center for the Arts](#), Bethel, NY

2012

Blue, Saugerties Performing Arts Factory, Saugerties, NY

Disrobed, The Mark Gruber Gallery, New Paltz, NY

2011

In The Flesh 3, Target Gallery, Alexandria, VA

[The Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Show](#), London, United Kingdom

Solo Exhibition, *Eight Portrait Peaces*, Brill Gallery, North Adams, MA

2010

The Royal Society of Portrait Painters Annual Show, London, United Kingdom

SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS, COLLECTIONS

2018

Finalist, [Greenwich/Westchester International Art Fair](#), February 28- March 3, 2019, Purchase, NY

[The Top 100 Figurative Painters Working Now](#), [Buzzfeed](#)

Finalist, 13th Annual group show, International Guild of Realism. *Keep Calm and Eat Oysters*

Finalist, American Women Artist Spring Online Juried Show, *Smoking Dragon*

Acquired by [The Count Ibex](#) Collection, *I Will Survive* and *Dauida*

Finalist, 13th Annual Art Renewal Salon, *Twosome*

Finalists, 8th International Painting Annual, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH, *Serafina*,
Sativa Sunrise

2017

The Top 100 Figurative Realists Working Now, BuzzFeed

Finalist, American Women Artist National Juried Exhibition at the Rockwell Museum,
Sativa Sunrise

Finalist, 1st Annual Juried Exhibition, WMOCA, Curated by Alyssa Monks, *I Will Survive*

Finalist, Artist Magazine Competition, Portraits/Figurative, *Serafina*

Finalist, 12th Annual group show, International Guild of Realism. *2 Oysters and a Spoon*

Acceptance into The International Guild of Realism

Associate Member with distinction American Women Artists

The Puffin Foundation grant recipient for the project called "Oysters: The Art of Conserving
a Species"

2016

Finalists, 12th Annual Art Renewal Salon, *Sativa Sunrise* and *Oyster Selfie on Ice*

Finalist, 2016 Mod Portrait, Sala Bantierra de Zaragoza, Zaragoza AND Museo Meam de Barcelona, Spain, *Sativa Sunrise*
Poets and Artists, 50 Memorable Painters of 2015, by GOSS183 Publishing Group

2015

Cover of Poets and Artists 62, Immortality and Vulnerability Issue, GOSS183 Publishing Group, *She-Ra*
Finalist, The Artist's Magazine Annual Art Competition, *Oysters in the Afternoon*
Acquired by [The Howard and Judith Tullman Art Collection](#), *Double Gulp*

2014

Creative Nude Art Erotic Signature's Art Competition Finalists, *Moxie*, and *Eggsistencial*
Finalist, The Artist's Magazine 31st Annual Art Competition, *Mrs. McDonald*

2013

[2013 Ten memorable paintings](#), The Huffington Post Arts Blog, *Mrs. McDonald*
Acquired by [The Howard and Judith Tullman Art Collection](#), *Moxie*
Acopal Exhibition of Contemporary American Realism Finalist, *Molly and Zoe*, 48" x 72",
Oil on Linen

2011

The Royal Society of Portrait Painters 2011 Annual Show, *Acacia and the Bowman*, 48" x 72",
Oil on Linen

2010

The Royal Society of Portrait Painters 2010 Annual Show, *The Rolling Buns*, 48" x 72",
Oil on Linen

SELECT PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

2017

[The Top 100 Figurative Painters Working Now](#), September
Art Collector Magazine editorial, October
[Kloosterboer on Formation](#), January 2017

2016

Art in Good Taste, by Max Gillies, May/June Food Issue, [Fine Art Connoisseur](#)
[Neither Painting Nor Disco Is Dead, And Here's The Art Show To Prove It](#), by Priscilla
Frank Arts Writer, The Huffington Post
[Probing Portraits by Nadine Robbins, Ali Cavanaugh, and Gary Weisman at Sirona Fine Art](#),
By Grace-Yvette Gemmell, Artsy Editorial

2015

Poets and Artists, 50 Memorable Painters of 2015, by GOSS183 Publishing Group

[The World's Greatest Erotic Art of Today](#), Volume 5, by Erotic Signature
[On the Cover: Nadine Robbins](#), Jessica Jones, Chronogram
[The Naked Truth](#), WAG Magazine, by Georgette Gouveia
[Howard Tullman's heavily caffeinated life](#), Shia Kapos, Crain's Business Chicago
Cover of Poets and Artists 62, [Immortality and Vulnerability Issue](#), by GOSS183
Publishing Group

2014

[Unconventional Portraits and Oysters](#), Luxebeatmag.com
Featured in [The Painted Nude Collection](#) Saatchiart.com
[10 Rather Eccentric Essays on Art](#), John Seed, The Huffington Post Arts Blog

2013

[An Alluring Woman With Fries and McDonaldization in Art](#), By John Seed
[10 Memorable Paintings from 2013](#) by John Seed

SPECIFICATIONS FOR 20 IMAGES:

1.

David
2015
68"x40"
Oil on Linen
Not For Sale
Count Ibex Collection

2.

Double Gulp
2015
24"x24"
Oil on Linen
Not For Sale
Tullman Collection

3.

The Golden Gown
2011
72"x48"
Oil on Linen
\$18,000

4.

I will Survive
2016
48"x48"

Oil on Linen
Not For Sale
Count Ibex Collection

5.
Lady Marmalade
2015
36"x24"
Oil on Linen
Not for Sale

6.
Metoo
2017
12"x9"
Oil on Linen
\$2,200

7.
Mrs. McDonald
2013
24"x18"
Oil on Linen
\$5,000

8.
Runnin on Dunkin
2018
24"x24"
Oil on Linen
\$6,500

9.
Sativa Sunrise
2016
24"x24"
Oil on Linen
\$7,000

10.
Serafina
2017
24"x36"
Oil on Linen

\$8,600

11.

Shera

2015

24"x24"

Oil on Linen

\$6,500

12.

Smoking Dragon

2018

20"x16"

Oil on Linen

\$3,500

13.

Stay Calm and Eat Oysters

2017

24"x24"

Oil on Linen

\$6,500

14.

The Green File

2017

48"x36"

Oil on Linen

\$12,000

15.

The Rolling Buns

2010

72"x48"

Oil on Linen

\$18,000

16.

Upside Down

2016

24"x24"

Oil on Linen

\$6,500

17.

Ice Ice Baby

2017

11"x14"

Oil on Linen

\$2,000

18.

9:05 (Nine O Five)

2017

24"x24"

Oil on Linen

\$6,300

19.

The Painted Oyster

2018

14"x11"

Oil on Linen

\$2,200

20.

Twosome

2017

18"x24"

Oil on Linen Board

Not For Sale

BedNark Collection

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