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Artist's Statement

My process is at turns deductive, intuitive, and experimental. I work directly from life whenever possible, because it provides the fortuitous aspects of a subject that photographs cannot. Art made from life is the result of an actual experience, a process of observation and change. It is a form of contemplation and prayer. To this end, no medium is better suited than oil paint. It's versatility allows me to achieve an array of atmospheric and tactile effects, from the opulence of skin to the dry density of stone. The depiction of light is readily achieved through its immediacy and expressive range. With its finely ground pigments dispersed in oil, light refracts within each stroke. Through mastering the technical qualities of oil paint, I celebrate the miracle that is light.

Mystery is the quality that I value most in my work. I am constantly inspired by the quality we call "sublime", that mixture of the beautiful and terrible which annihilates the ego in an avalanche of wonder. When I look out, carefully observing the bumpy surface of an orange, or the delicate gradations of the sky, I am actually looking in. My outward expression in paint emerges from an inward astonishment. For this reason I seldom depict things exactly as they appear. I do not transcribe reality as much as present it filtered through contemplation. Each piece goes through a process of distillation. My goal is to create a statement both physical and ethereal, of heaven and earth. Painting is a language unencumbered by words. At its best it carries a simple and universal message:

"I was here once, I laughed and I cried, and what I saw was beautiful"