

Daniel J Betsill
Portraiture



Artist statement.

From my college days through my career as an interior designer I have pursued as a hobby life-scale portraiture out of my love for the French *fin de siècle* poster artists and the decorative arts of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Drawing from Art Nouveau, Art Deco, The Pre-Raphaelites and the Aesthetic Movement, my interest is portraying modern people in these anachronistic settings and styles. The core of my style is to place a realistic, monochromatic figure, in modern dress, against a colorful, themed background.

Goauche, acrylic and a variety of marbleizing and impasto techniques are used to contrast the very flat, black-and-white, photo-like figure who is seemingly 'cut out' of modern times and placed in an antique environment. When working in oil pastels the style is looser and may be without background or, conversely, in the manner of a *Salon* genre painting, with a classical scene.

Regardless of style or details, my object is to always draw from the features and personality of the subject to inform the entourage. The figure may be self-aware and interact with its new surroundings, or exist in a separate consciousness as if assembled in a decoupage. A playful reference to past-life experience leads to confabulations of past and present to tell the narrative of who this person may have been, or may become. In reality, it is about engaging the viewer, who may know nothing of the person other than what I am telling in the painting, into what is the very nature of the subject: a uniqueness; an interesting story found in every one of us.



Pencil Sketches



Pastels



Life-scale "Icons"



Genre Paintings



