

# POETS *and* ARTISTS

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interview with  
**Frank Bernarducci**  
featuring the  
**Bernarducci.Meisel.Gallery**



also inside  
**Jenny Morgan**  
**Jeremy Geddes**  
**Michael-Earle Carlton**  
**Eric Stevens**  
**Jon Hul**  
and more





Eros oil on linen 71"x55"

Omar Ortiz was born in 1977 at Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico where he still lives. Since he was a boy he has been interested in drawing and illustration. He studied for a degree in Graphic Design, where he learned different techniques such as hand drawing, pastels, charcoal, water colors, acrylics and airbrushing. When he finished college he decided to make a living from painting. In 2002 he attended his first oil paint classes with the artist Carmen Alarcón, who he considers his main teacher. Omar Ortiz currently works with oil painting because he considers it the noblest technique.

A minimalistic - hyperrealism characterizes his work, where white colors, human body and a magical fabric play predominate. "His paintings act like intimate pieces, trapped in themselves, outside of space and context"

He has showed in Mexico, Spain, Netherlands and London.

"Since I started painting I have always liked to represent things as real as I can, sometimes I succeed sometimes I don't, what is a fact is that it is very hard for me to do the opposite. I enjoy the challenges of trying to reproduce natural light and the nuances that gives us, particularly in bright environments. I like to keep the simplicity of the pieces because I think excess makes us poorer rather than richer." OMAR ORTIZ



relations oil on linen 32"x55"





Citric Spiral oil on linen 63"x87"

## Q&A OMAR ORTIZ

### Explain your process.

Normally I first work with the idea and sometimes I do some sketches so I don't forget it. The next step is to take the photo shoot either with models or with objects. During the photo session I play with the light and the composition always trying to maintain simplicity, then I work with the photos on the computer using Photoshop to edit the images. I adjust the colors, contrast, levels and remove items if necessary, once edited I print the image and start painting with the photograph always in hand. One thing I always have very clear is that the photograph is just another tool to accomplish a bigger objective. I never rely 100% on what the photograph tells me because photography is monocular and has many limitations compared to what the human eye perceives so I always make corrections during the process. I always work the color based on the transparency of layers and layers that way I can

achieve the depth of the tones and shades of the skin and other elements. My work is slow and a painting takes me from 15 days to one month to finish it because I put special attention to details.

### How have social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and others come into play with your art?

Social networks, forums, blogs and web sites have been very useful for me because they have helped me show my work worldwide. The internet has opened some doors for me in galleries in other countries. The communication through the internet becomes instantaneous and direct and you can contact people, artist or dealers in a way that 10 years ago would not be possible. Nowadays when you want to search about any artist the first thing you do is to look in the internet, so I think that if you want to show your work to the world the internet is a very good place to do so.

### How has digital accessibility come into play with your work?

Digital media has been very useful to me because I often use a computer and a digital camera as tools, that way I don't have the model posing for more than 15 days.

### What is your preferred medium and why?

My preferred medium is oil paint because I consider it the noblest technique; I think it has several aspects that make it better than other techniques like: durability, flexibility, the ability to work it opaque or transparent. I have worked with other techniques such as acrylic, watercolor, graphite and pastel but I still prefer oil painting.

### Do you believe art should serve a political purpose or remain neutral?

I believe that art should serve the purpose of beauty; art should isolate us for a moment from all the pollution and the accelerated lives we usually have to offer a space or a moment of simplicity in our lives.





*Angles* oil on linen 55"x 71"

**Introspective: Female Diety**

This is a piece that I particularly like. Light, color and composition were the main factors I wanted to deal with to give the piece the monumental nature that was intended. The intention was to represent the beauty of a female body in some kind of pedestal. The painting presented some technical challenges like the perspective in the face which is one of the most difficult positions to paint, the tension in the muscles of the neck and skin tones on a background dominated by whites, when I completed the piece I showed it to a friend that is an art critic and he found many symbolisms in it that I had not planned but make much sense...

"Female diety" is a mystical work, eclectic essence of a pantheistic religion, between paganism and Christianity.

Her body adapts to the rigidity and geometrical forms of the Egyptian shapes. It is the pose of a pharaoh. The same cube in which she sits reinforces the impression of dignity and solemnity of a statue. But it is not a cult for an Egyptian goddess; it is a beautiful naked woman, that covers her breasts with her arms, drawing our attention to them in a very sensual way. There is plenty in this figure of a crucified Christ, if you go up and focus on every part of her body, the feet hang like from a piece of wood and seem lacerated, a

chastity cloth covers her private parts, white is a symbol of purity, her neck is full of tension while her head looks at the sky and seems to whisper a prayer... But it is not one of our dramatic bloody Christ..., it is just a sensation, it is us contemplating a contained emotion."

Alfredo García Gómez-Álvarez



OMAR ORTIZ



*Female Diety* oil on linen 71"x55"