

## ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is an investigation of seemingly concrete situations and experiences of women and girls that have defined who they are and the things they do. It explores topics related to beauty, lust, stereotypes of various groups of people, misjudgments, repression, and social taboos. My work also offers an ironic discourse on issues like self-objectification, violence, and on existentialist matters such as the fragility of life. By emphasizing aesthetics and constructing a narrative, I create small worlds that articulate the stream of personal stories. Moments are depicted that only exist to punctuate the story of a woman or a girl in order to clarify her existence and to find poetic meaning in her conduct (in her everyday life).

My images center on women and girls in ordinary interiors, portrayed in achromatic grayscale shades and glazes. Usually created in acrylics on canvas, sometimes they hold touches of bright color such as red, and sometimes with flat blacks.

I study sign processes, signification, and communication of the stories I portray, and by using symbols, I depict images that generate diverse meanings. I surround my women with objects and furniture that hint at their stories. My subjects are ambiguous with their posture on morality, violence, sensuality, taboos, and existentialism. The stories depicted within those images bounce between real life facts, masked emotions, repressed memories, unexpressed arguments, and the underlying meanings. My paintings never show complete stories. Associations and meanings collide, and this results in the fact that the viewer can easily imagine an own interpretation without being hindered by the historical reality. My images sometimes emanate a latent violence, that creates a disconcerting beauty. The visual seductiveness, along with the use of symbols, further complicates the reception of their layers of meaning.

I often create several similar works. The recurrence of themes and subjects I often feature in my series make allegory to the acts of learning from experiences, loss of control, lust, passion, obsessive behavior, repetition of mistakes, choices that are intentionally repeated, society/cultural/gender patterns and stereotypes.

My work is inspired by stories of women I have met, conversations and personal experiences. With influences as diverse as Rembrandt, Matisse, and Balthus, I synthesize new variations from both explicit and implicit discourse. I am also interested in the thin line that exists between fear and desire, and how closely they are interrelated. I am also fascinated by the ephemeral nature of the mind and fragility of life.

My images are on the one hand touchingly beautiful, on the other hand painfully attractive. I try to leave the viewer orphaned with a mix of conflicting feelings and thoughts.