

Amy Adams : Artist Statement 2023



I am inspired to paint the light, the relationship between objects in the light and the shadows that are cast by them. Someone whose work I admire so deeply for his ability to “paint the light” is the Spanish Impressionist Joaquin Sorolla. I have found a kindred spirit in his work, for I too am excited by how the light and shadow shapes relate to one another. It is along the edge of these shapes that I find the most interesting connection. In all of my work, it is my intention to paint the light and the shadow, and to transcend beyond the literal object itself. To attempt to tell a story of this relationship, as it exists only in that moment.

My medium of choice is oil paint because of the tactile feeling of the paint, and the way the paint flows on the canvas. Oils provide me with the opportunity to explore texture and paint quality in my work, as well as how these elements contribute to the visual message.

I begin every painting with a pencil drawing. I believe that drawing is the basis of any good painting. I use my drawing to identify large dark and light masses. It helps me to work out the technical details. For example, which areas I am going to emphasize using smaller shapes and stronger contrasts. Ultimately, the composition of any painting begins with this drawing process because I believe that once I have my drawing resolved, I can move to my canvas and have a clear understanding of where I want to go with the painting.

I like to work my paint wet on wet, which means I like to push the paint around and sometimes even mix my colors on the canvas. I typically begin by mixing all of my colors on my palette, so that when I begin to put paint on the canvas I can block in my work quickly. My goal is to tap into my intuitive side, and paint with pure intention. This is my favorite part of the process because it is the moment I let go of any preconceived notions and allow myself the freedom to be expressive.

Currently I am interested in the study of form, and how in my paintings that is defined by the relationship between light and shadow. I like to work with images that feel organic in some way, shapes that can be abstracted and almost unpredictable. Images inspired from rural Ohio, specifically farm animals are my favorite subjects. But I also enjoy working with figures and scenes I may witness every day. I love playing with color relationships in still life subjects I assemble in my studio. Ultimately-- it is the light and the emotion it evokes that I wish to capture.