

William J. Otremsky

Artist's Statement

My work is a visual statement that promotes a dialogue with the viewer. The undercurrent of shared experiences and emotions - the human condition, encourages this dialogue. Through painting, I interpret universal meanings, truths and experiences that span societal barriers.

I use symbolism and narrative as a visual commentary on the human condition as I explore new directions for figurative work. While scrutinizing the questions that are posed by Modernist and Post-Modernist theory, I have found it necessary to investigate concepts and techniques that are essentially pre-modern in order to find a new direction for contemporary figurative painting. Rather than simply referring back through centuries of figurative work, my paintings pull from history the empathy, the drama, and the timelessness of epic painting, while pronouncing my personal vision in contemporary terms.

This continuing investigation and experimentation allows me to create a tension between image and surface, ancient and modern.

I am interested in the ways in which the human figure influences critical thought. Easily recognizable and highly adaptable, it is capable of expressing an infinite variety of emotions. Throughout the history of art, the figure has been a channel for thoughts and ideas. Whether it is in Poussin's plea for morals, Delacroix's demands for revolution, or Hopper's whispers of desperation, the figure has always been an empathetic medium.

Learning from the masters, I combine these elements of content with technique in order to create coherent, thought-provoking, and thoroughly modern work.