

Artist Statement: Figurative Work

Sarah Schuster's rigorous formal training in figure painting has allowed it to play a central role in her creative expression even while she moves fluidly in and out of her figurative work. The figures in her paintings languish in invented worlds depicting the realm of the imagination: memory, ecstasy, dreams and desire. Her figures often merge with each other, with nature or with a pattern on the painted surface celebrating qualities that are often relegated to the feminine and perceived as signs of weakness, such as, sentimentality, intimacy, sensuality and vulnerability. The form of her paintings reference religious icons and ancient fertility images to heighten the significance of their content.