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M U L T I P L E F I G U R E S

curated by

GAYLE MADEIRA

The surprising result of the dissection and deconstruction which the modern art movement put narrative through, as meat is put through a grinder, is that it emerged, butterfly-like, with new life breathed into it. Freed from prior constraints such as strict conventions of composition and theme, narratives are being woven by new realism artists in a delightful combining of modern methods with the solid technical prowess that was suppressed for many decades.

In this collection of multiple figure narratives, we find themes emerge like fighting or striving as in Alexandra Tyng's *Scavengers* or in Nikki Schiro's *Nikki Judy Christofano*. Breaking free as in Leo Plaw's *Big-Leap* or Luz-Mary Harris' *Emerging*. Helping one another, resting, or working together as in Anna Wypych's *The Vestals Protectors of Inner Fire*, Kimberly Dow's *Guardians* or Junyi Liu's *Beauty Won't Hurt You*. Or all of the above as in Christina Mastrangelo's *Know Not Thy Pending Fate*.

In Viktoria Savenkova's *Perseids*, the title of the painting takes part in the narrative-making process. This is a typical device in contemporary art, but the work often lacks value without artspeak. This painting, however, stands solidly on its own. I found myself wondering if the three women are somehow listening to the meteor shower, or were they shading their eyes to view it? My brain cycled between those viewpoints and the others I came up with before reading the title, which ended up bringing many flavors into the overall stew.

It is refreshing and invigorating to watch realism artists pairing the new with the old to make it new again.



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1. ALEXANDRA TYNG

Scavengers
60" x 60" oil on linen

2. NIKKI SCHIRO

Nikki Judy Christofano
72" x 66" pastel & acrylic on linen

3. LEO PLAW

Big-Leap
39.5" x 31.5" oil on canvas

4. LUZ-MARY HARRIS

Emerging
59" x 50" x 18" aqua resin w/bronze patina

5. ANNA WYPYCH

The Vestals – Protectors of the Inner Fire
27.5" x 39.5" oil on canvas



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