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Cindy Ruiz

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Claremont Graduate University
Peggy Phelps Gallery
251 East 10th Street
Claremont, CA, 91711
Gallery Hours: M-F 10am-5pm

MUTED

Cindy Ruiz

Muted

Dolls inspire me because of the mysterious place they occupy in human affection, conveying playfulness but at the same time expressing the vulnerability of being alive. They don't need a verbal language, for they have a strong gaze that looks back. I see them as a substitute for humans. As subjects for paintings, they are a cross between a figure and a still life. They don't move when I paint them. I paint these dolls as realistically and as honestly as I can because I want to be true to the individual doll. I paint what I observe.

Trying to find these dolls is like a treasure hunt to me and I treat as treasures. I look for old ones that were once mass produced but now are rare, more of a collector's item, which also makes challenging to find. I enjoy looking for dolls that I wouldn't normally see on an everyday basis. The difficulty in attaining them enhances their value to me. I see them as an embodiment of a bygone era and I see them as timeless, as works of art themselves. I don't see them as toys or pretty ornaments. To me, they are telling a story about what it's like to live in their time. I like seeing them as little works of art, exquisite sculptures with cloth, porcelain, fabric, plastic and paint. They are elegant and precise.

I appreciate them but also want to be able to embrace their beautiful craftsmanship through my paintings. I like to lose myself when I am painting. Details and accuracy are important to me, including the deepness of the folds in the clothes or the bows, or finding the stitches in a dress or face. Even though the dolls have a simple appearance, I prefer the complexity when it comes to detail. I embrace the challenge of trying to capture the definition of these dolls and accurately translating the lines, shape, tint, and levels of value onto the canvas.

I believe dolls help people learn how to process emotions, such as compassion and empathy, allowing us to grow up to be caring individuals. In terms of human understanding, they can be both comforting and daunting. Even though dolls are quiet and appear to be weak to the surface they have strength, vitality, and life that is undeniable. I see to amplify that through my paintings. To do so, I crop them and make them look like portraits, then they exist as I want them to be and that is frozen in time.















