

Reynier Llanes Stay



STAY is from a series of paintings “What is Essential is Invisible to the Eye” by the Cuban artist Reynier Llanes. Using oil on canvas, painted in 2022. 175cm x 160cm . The series was painted 2020-2022, on various canvas sizes the largest measuring 554-503 cm and the smallest being 58-43 cm.

The composition of this painting is of a girl facing away from our view. We can see the back of her pink pastel knee length dress and long brown wavy hair. Her face is in a side profile. She has a cigarette in her right uplifted hand. Her dress and hair are reminiscent of Victorian style yet she is holding a cigarette and the dress is short and off the shoulders giving a more modern time feel. She is holding on to the bannister of a balcony whilst she is conversing with a figure that is transparent. This figure looks like a male, he is taller than her whilst leaning cross legged on the bannister. The figure is holding a yellow marigold flower. The background looks like a garden slowly drifting upwards to the sky. In this background there are spots of colours that look like flowers and fowledge.

The style of the piece is traditional narrative symbolism. This series of works explores the involvement of seeing the past as a physical appearance or presence appearing to give a meaning. He describes feelings as "being invisible". In this piece he is showing us a relationship, a feeling the girl had with this person that is no longer there. The longing and wanting of a person who is gone.

The mood of the picture is almost fairytale, story like. It is showing a warm summer day from her past that was happy and relaxing but has now gone. The series of painting in this collection cover very serious social issues, sentiments and emotions but makes them almost childlike, story telling, free and colourful.

This artist and his pieces are my current favourites. For me the colours he captures with his use of oil paint and pigments is fairytale like, gives an essence of being little again and someone telling you a story, but the cigarette and dress length gives it a view on how life changes, but we will never fully forget about the past. The transparent figure makes me feel a sense of hope and encouragement, even when everything is changing and scary, that you will move on, change is necessary, but no matter how hard you try nothing will really ever disappear or leave your heart and memories. I also really like the colours used in the piece. It makes me think of the warm spring breeze and they are very nice colours, especially the ones used for the transparent figure, it makes it really pop out and makes it water like. I also like the folds and attention to detail in the girls dress, making it victorian style stand out a lot.