

Gaye Elise Beda Reinvents Reality

By Renee Phillips



"Moment At The Met", waterbased paint on paper, 20" x 16".

Gaye Elise Beda commands the brilliant mastery of composition of Giotto, whose complex, formal rhythms of design were flawlessly executed. And, like Hieronymous Bosch, her paintings are often dream-like worlds inhabited by intriguing humans. Furthermore, her acute attention to details and sharp, strong colors, place her among the ranks of the best photorealists of our time. She works from life, as well as from photographs which she takes herself.

Beda pursues her neighborhood with artistic passion and human compassion, and her neighborhood stretches from nearby city landmarks, to distant lands. She paints her subjects knowingly, by instantly building a rapport with the colors, flavors and people indigenous to that locale, from the South Street Seaport, to the Union Square Greenmarket, to Israel and the Bahamas. It is the human experience that inspires Beda, therefore there are no geographic limitations to thwart her peripheral vision.

She is an artist who constantly seeks challenges, engaging in painstaking perfectionism, which is evident in the intricacy of her compositions. Her desire to create the most accurate palette led to her development of a unique formulation of a water-based paint, with the help of a paint manufacturer. Her colors are intense, full of richness and vitality, but never overly bright or unnatural.

"Moment At The Met" is a stunning example of how Beda takes viewers to familiar scenes, yet enlivens the compositions to offer much more than the naked eye can observe. She transforms and expands our visual awareness. Simultaneously, a myriad different perspectives engage us, and, one step removed from the activity, we become curious travelers embarking upon a new reality.

Among Beda's many achievements are the Philip Isenberg Award and the Stanford White Award. Her work is included in numerous collections -- museum, corporate and private -- and among her commissioned works is a mural for the Mesopotamia Courthouse, in Ohio. Her work has been featured in many art publications and one-person and group exhibitions including those at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, Guild Hall, and The Salmagundi Club.

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