



"Alajar" by Fernando Velazquez

Name: Fernando Velazquez
Age: 49
Location: Sherborne, Dorset
Practice: Painting
Price range: £150 - £6,000
Size range: 20 - 200cm

When did your art career start, and what made you turn to art?

My career as a painter began at the same time that I started my law school studies. At this time, I experienced a natural sense of questioning about life and expression, from which my painting emerged. For me, art was a revolution – something that hit me with an intensity that has never departed. I am sure that, as a young man, the need to understand the world led me to artistic expression as a way of learning some of the most precious elements in my life: mystery, truth and search.

What were you doing before working in art?

I grew up in a creative family. I was the youngest, and I was exposed to art and music from an early age. Initially, writing was important but I found that paintings spoke to me directly about others, whilst revealing at the same time my true path in life.

In your opinion, what has been the biggest success in your career to date?

I have had a few moments of excitement so far beyond life in the studio, where I measure my true success on a personal level. My first exhibition in New York, ("Paintings of the Floating World") was a moment of joy. The subsequent commission, by Rosenberg & Kaufman Gallery, to create a painting for the music of the iconic American composer George Crumb, was a true honour. The series "Paintings of the Floating World" has reached many different collectors in America, London and Hong Kong. My exhibition "Cuevas", presented at the Schneider House in London, was also a significant success in my career, completing a creative cycle exploring particular aspects of abstraction and nature.

Which artist(s) do you admire most?

I admire artists who had the courage to follow their own lead, responding unreservedly to the unavoidable need to express their emotions. I love Turner's treatment of a light that dissolves all form. Corot makes the autumn leaves tremble with a gentle touch of the brush. Bacon paints

the sound of anxiety whilst Fry Angelico whispers order and clarity. I am moved by the fever of Delacroix and the intensity of Gericault. I become silent in front of Freidrich and agitated by the flesh of Soutine... There are so many who keep teaching me. The older I am the more they speak to me.

What is your process for creating a new piece of work?

Every piece is a part of a bigger picture, each represents a section of the total piece of art. Throughout my years of work in the studio, I now identify clearly a distinctive state of mind that generates the need to produce a painting towards the understanding of the bigger picture. I need to be completely focused to start that process. A combination of emotions and ideas seem to find form and meaning on the surface of the canvas. There is no random approach to the physicality of the painting; it is about finding the image that unlocks those ideas and profound emotions. I am finding my own vocabulary of marks that will create new words and with those words I will be able to construct a sentence, my comment on life...

Fernando Velazquez is currently working on a new series called "Gale Paintings-Pinturas de Viento". They are paintings about the strength of nature as a metaphor; gales that transform our reality through intense power. After the series "Cave Paintings of our Time", "Gale Paintings" represents a response to our agitated world and the beginning of a new society; a new world of change.