

Sharon Allicotti Artist Statement

Inspired by the distinguished Los Angeles-based interpretive dancer, Raymond Ejiolor, "Solo in Septuple" portrays the performer "accompanying himself" in seven poses in a setting that imaginatively references downtown LA architectural elements. Intended to convey an expressively charged narrative, the dancer appears as both powerful and vulnerable in multiple, emotive gestures grouped in dynamic, rhythmic arrangement.

The technique of using pastel chalks and charcoal sticks allows for a direct, highly tactile process whereby I "build" the image with layer upon layer of marks and lines. The "Amate" bark paper, made in Mexico of mulberry and fig tree pulp, is itself a unique, purely handmade product of an ancient papermaking tradition.

My body of work embraces the time-honored practice of creating psychologically resonant tableau emphasizing an evocative, lyrical relationship between the human figure (or artifacts) and the environment in which they are situated. I strive to compellingly depict observed appearances, remaining faithful to the distinctive features my subjects—but ultimately—to transcend illusionist specificity in favor of eliciting a more universal response: the beholder's empathy. It is my belief that representational Art's power lies in its capacity to provoke imaginative interpretation, especially through recognition of our common experience.

Bio

Sharon Allicotti is a Los Angeles-based painter whose distinctive realist paintings depict the human subject in both its corporeal and psychological dimensions, and in relationship to the places and spaces they occupy. She has exhibited widely, both regionally and nationally, and has won numerous public and private awards and grants in recognition of her creative studio work, which is held in collections nationally and abroad.

Arts community outreach and empowerment through education are integral to her practice: Since earning her MFA from CSU Long Beach, she has been teaching collegiate-level studio art courses, including her appointment in 1993 as Fine Arts Chair at the Laguna College of Art & Design; and where in 2006, she established the MFA in Representational Drawing & Painting, the program for which she continues to mentor graduate students.

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