



Transitory Trances with Rai Escalé

Written by: Anthony Hagan All Images by Rai Escalé



Spaniard, Rai Escalé is a very moving individual in more ways than one. His words are sagely calming and subtly scolding at the same time. He understands human nature perfectly but also does not believe that we are powerless in changing innate behavioral traits. He believes that art could literally calm the world down. Rai depends on a fluctuating process of going in and out of his own psyche to uncover, recover and reveal images that cause his audience look and look again. Rai knows that his process and creations are unpredictable and could cause gallery owners/collectors some hesitancy, but he is also aware that an artist has to be expressively truthful. Rai's words teach us in a non-condemnatory way that a simple life that takes loved ones, nature and travel very seriously is a good life. And when you add the creation of truthful and beautiful art to the mix, it is like you have Heaven on Earth.

"Art is the best way I've found to sublimate myself into someone better ..."

Please tell us a little about yourself – your childhood, siblings, where you grew up, what you liked as a child, strange thoughts as a child/now, unique attributes, where you live now, etc.?

I am Catalan-born and bred. I was raised in Barcelona and I am the oldest of four siblings. My Dad was a veterinarian so I spent a big part of my younger years washing dogs in the family's pet-shop. From that early age I began loving and understanding dogs and animals much more than people. For 30 years now, I have been sharing my life with a human goddess. We recently have gone rural and life looks and feels good right now.



What does your art mean to you?

Art is the best way I've found to sublimate myself into someone better. I think art would have the same effect on all of mankind if people were interested in calming down a bit. Art is also like a lens that lets me see my better self through my best achievements.



Beach-Ghost 5_ 74x55cm_Acryl, Solvent, Pencil & Ink on digital prints collage.

How do you describe your form of art?

My form of art is more an exercise in analyzing signs and forms than a pictorial style. I have mixed techniques during my whole career and have jumped from one to another, following the need to keep myself free and stay out of the corset that ends up being your own style. However, this erraticism sometimes makes me an unpredictable creator for collectors and gallerists.

Although it might sound doctrinaire, when I get down to painting, I only seek the possibility of falling into the kind of trance that I already know. This trance allows me work forgetting about myself and my intentions. It lets me be able to get a glimpse of the underlying images in the (my) subconscious and this is the most valuable and inaccessible fishing ground. When I am able to get into it this world (and it's not always possible), this automated state lets me intuitively play the game of trompe-l'oeil (French for 'deceive the eye') - the visual joke and constructive surprise that aids the navigation of the surreal. Going in and out of this allows me to construct images that make you look twice to understand.

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