

Fedele Spadafora

Fedele Spadafora is an American painter whose figurative work deals with contemporary urban themes in a technically skillful manner. His work shows a wide range of influences, including sources as diverse as the Renaissance, popular culture, and his deep ethnic roots. Having graduated from MSU in 1990, Fedele Spadafora spent the next six years in Prague, where, among other things, he co-founded the alternative publishing venture, Twisted Spoon Press. He currently lives in New York City where he continues his career in painting. His current work is based on the human figure and draws its inspiration from the art of the great masters.

Exhibitions

2010

Visual Container, Milan/Berlin, (Group Exhibition)

2009

Chelsea Art Museum, Four Artists in Concert

Chelsea Art Museum, Art and Music Winter event

Streaming Festival, The Hauge, (Group Exhibition)

Visions in New York City, New York, (Group Exhibition)

Pan Gallery, Knut Hamsum Exhibition, Oslo, (Group Exhibition)

Gitana Rosa Gallery, Carnival, New York, (Group Exhibition)

2008

LES Arts Festival, A group exhibition featuring artists living and working in the Lower East Side

Fifth Annual NOHO NY, The fifth annual NOHO NY ArtWalk in the celebrated NoHo community

2007

A.N.E.W. Museum & Galleries at The District, Design District. Miami, Florida

Red Dot Exhibition, Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery

Hilton Gallery, Prague, (Solo Exhibition)

2006

Red Dot Exhibition, Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery

Merit Scholarship Winners, Cork Gallery, Lincoln Center

Body: The Facets of the Human Body, Asian Fusion Gallery

Merit Scholarship Winners, Cork Gallery, Lincoln Center

2005

Hope for World Peace International Art Exhibition, Asian Fusion Gallery

Awards

Red Dot Award for Nelson Shanks' Studio Class, 2007

Red Dot Award for Frank Porcu's Studio Class, 2007

Richard Lahey and Carlotta Gonzales Lahey Memorial Scholarship, 2005

Education

Michigan State University BA Painting

Bachelor's in Studio Art with an emphasis in Painting and History of Art

Art Students League of New York

Studio of Nelson Shanks: painting/drawing/anatomy

Studio of Frank Porcu: Anatomy and Structure

Workshop with Nelson Shanks: Portrait Painting

Studio Incamminati, Philadelphia, PA

Fedele Spadafora

Born in Lansing, Michigan, Fedele Spadafora graduated from Michigan State University in 1990 with a Bachelor's Degree in the Fine Arts. He spent six years in Prague, where, among other things, he co-founded the alternative publishing venture, Twisted Spoon Press. Spadafora now lives in New York City where he continues painting, focusing on the portrait. He has studied in New York with Nelson Shanks, Marvin Mattelson, Steven Assel, Frank Mason, Alyssa Monks, Frank Porcu and Dan Thompson.

Drawing his inspiration from the art of the great masters, Spadafora's latest representational paintings combine the human figure with the urban landscape of New York City in what could be considered a human landscape.

The goal of my work is to create a timeless quality that transplants the viewer to parts of New York that evoke a sublime beauty and express the human condition as it plays out in the melancholy diners and hole-in-the-wall restaurants that are quickly disappearing from the city's landscape. I look for a world that is quickly evaporating around me and is being replaced by corporate business machines, like Starbucks, T-mobile and Chase Manhattan. I look for places and people that intrigue, amaze and perhaps even surprise me. I aim to give a new perspective to this reality.

My work is based on the human figure and draws its inspiration from the art of the great masters, such as Rembrandt, Van Dyke, Sir Henry Raeburn, Ingres, J. L. David, Wm. M. Paxton and William Adolphe Bouguereau. As an artist, my challenge is to live up to the standard of excellence they've established.

The palette, moody lighting and thick, lush, bold brushwork increase the narrative quality of my paintings. In form, though, they are about shapes of color. I construct each piece by using shapes in an abstract way to design the picture. I try to see everything as a shape of color, some shapes are darker, some are lighter, some are bigger and some are some smaller. And I continually refine these shapes until figures and landscapes emerge and these objects become solid and real.

Experience:

Twisted Spoon Press,
Co-founder, Creative Director, Illustrator
Independent Publishing Venture - Prague, Czech Republic

Twisted Spoon Press, founded in 1992, is an independent publisher based in Prague. Focusing on translating a variety of writing from Central & Eastern Europe, our list includes some internationally recognized names as well as up-and-coming authors who are having their work published in English for the first time. Placing equal emphasis on introducing both new works from contemporary writers and work from an earlier period that has been neglected in English translation. Together with our "expatriate" writers series, we offer an eclectic and unique selection of literature from the region, often illustrated by local artists and always well-designed and handsomely produced.