

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a colorful, multi-colored sweater (pink, blue, green, purple, orange), is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background is a blurred urban setting with buildings.

## Michele Del Campo

In my work I develop themed projects where I research and try to give voice to my concerns and to what I feel about things. In my latest series “Journey of no Return” I portray a disenchanting youth that has lost faith in the world they live in. The urban degradation as a setting is a metaphor of abandonment and desolation. It accompanies well the portraits of these young people that feel empty, with no values nor perspectives for their future.

**When did you realize you wanted to make art seriously?**

When I was around twenty, after I moved from a small and poor town in South Italy to a big city, Milan. I decided to take a risk and follow my passion, although I knew that people around me would not understand it in the beginning, considering other careers as more convenient to make a living.

**Who are your biggest creative influences?**

Mainly I am inspired by the expressivity of the painting of Goya, Sorolla and Liu Xiaodong and the mood of Andrew Wyeth and Edward Hopper. However, I keep an archive of lots and lots of painters and photographers that I like, all of them contribute to shape my taste in painting.

**As an artist, how would you define success?**

From the idealistic point of view: to be able to infuse an image with a certain magic that reaches out to people and clicks some emotion in them, beyond the simple image. From the pragmatic point of view: to reach the independence and the status necessary to create in complete freedom.

**Finish this sentence. People should support art because it is the only .....**

activity where we can defy our conventions, define our values and create beauty.

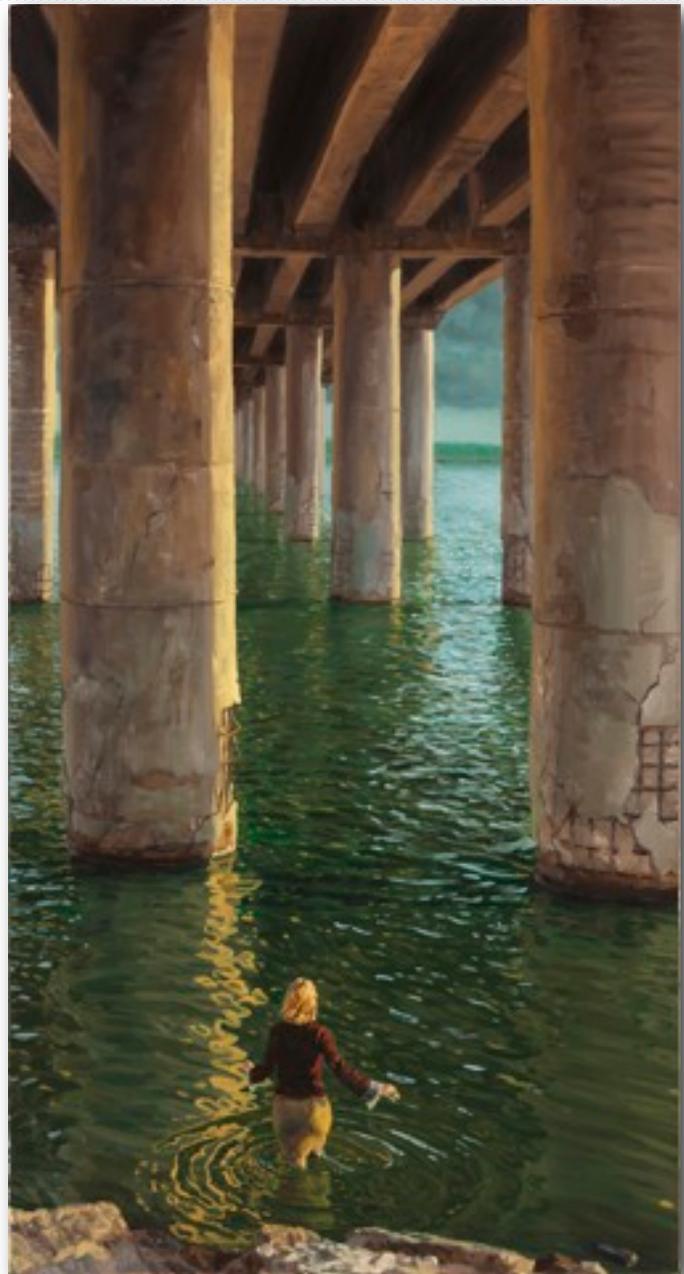
**Do you think the internet is crucial to the success of artists today?**

Internet is a very powerful tool today, fundamental to the promotion of an artist.

However, we tend to think that internet has it all and is everything but we are wrong. Artworks should be seen and judged by life whenever it is possible, it is so easy to underrate or overestimate pieces of art when they appear tiny in a flat screen. Moreover, artists should not fall into the temptation of over-promoting themselves, taking too much of their time away from the actual creation.

**Would you say you had a time of day or night where you have more creative energy than others?**

I tend to deal with emails, chores and organization of my work in the morning. Only in the afternoon I start to forget about everything (or almost...) and get involved in painting. I usually paint best in the night, when everything is quiet around me.



*The passage oil on linen 170x90cm*

**Would you say your artistic style found you, or you found it?**

I am continuously searching for new ways of dealing with painting and expressing ideas on a canvas. I am never content with what I know and what I can do, so I would guess that if I found a style it would be the boring end of my search.

**Do you have any pieces that you would never consider selling? Why?**

I would like to keep for myself at least one of the best paintings in every solo exhibition of mine, as landmarks of my progress and



*Cars Cemetery oil on linen, 180x200cm*

my continuous research. Only lately I have begun to do so and I would not sell those pieces, as I know that it can be easy to sell a piece but very difficult to buy it back.

**How would you describe the ambiance of your studio space?**

Tidy, luminous, cosy, inviting.

**A hundred years from now what do you hope people say when they talk about you?**

Every artist hopes that their work will live on after them, as only art and history have the power to transcend the dreaded death. I do hope so too. I hope that in 100 years people will still be inspired in some way by my paintings and feel some kind of emotion that goes beyond the representation of this period in time.

Michele Del Campo lives and works in London. He is represented mainly by the Imago Gallery in London, the Galería Alcolea in Spain and the Enlace Arte Contemporáneo in Lima. Michele completed his Fine Art studies, which he had started in Milan, at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid in 2007. He also holds a 'Bachelor of Design (Hons) Degree' in Illustration from the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Arts in Dundee (UK) which he obtained in 2001. In 2002 he moved to Madrid and started exhibiting individually in 2004 at the Galería Jorge Alcolea. From then on his work has met the enthusiasm of the public and the appraisal of the critic in his various solo exhibitions in London (2008, 2010), Madrid (2004, 2005, 2007), Barcelona (2005, 2006), Valencia (2004) and Lima (2011). During his stay in Madrid he also won several art prizes, among which the prestigious "Premio BMW" in 2006, presented by Her Majesty the Queen Sofía of Spain. His 2011 solo exhibition "Viaje de no retorno" (Journey of no Return) at the Enlace Arte Contemporaneo Gallery won him the "Premio Luces" prize for the best solo exhibition of the year in Peru.





MicheleDelCampo *One of them*, oil on linen 140x200cm