

DANIEL BILMES

Perceptions of Reality



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For his upcoming solo exhibition at Arcadia Contemporary, Los Angeles-based artist Daniel Bilmes wanted to create a multifaceted exhibition tied together by both his technical approach and an underlying theme. He began to explore how perception defines reality using the working title of *Veil of Perception*, which soon developed into the working title of *Paradigm*. In his pieces, Bilmes focuses on the ideas of defining reality and how people

experience life on a deeper level.

"The working title is now *Paradigm* because I really like the concept of paradigm being a set of points of framework that defines a reality. Not *the* reality, but *a* reality," he says. "It's almost like the intangible element of reality in general, because what is reality? Through the visual medium I want to explore the moments in time almost where we're viewing some sort of truth or glimpse of the infinite or divine

or the veil of our own limitations, if I may."

Bilmes finds the concept intriguing because he doesn't believe humans are actually able to fully grasp the bigger picture, but people should want to push themselves to learn and know more so there are moments or flashes of greater comprehension. "That's what I think comes in the meaning and purpose of art in a larger way. What is the point of art? To touch people in a way to make someone see something or



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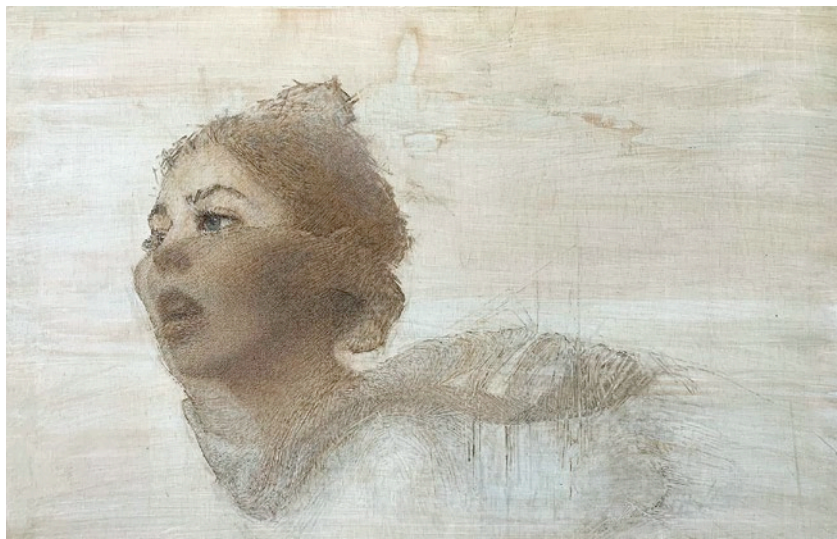
feel something or ask a question that they wouldn't have an opportunity to without seeing the painting," he adds. "As artists we have the luxury and the responsibility to think about things and understand things at a deeper level. I think it's our job to convey that in a way that the audience can resonate with and maybe show something that wouldn't be visible to us."

Works such as *Anonymous* and

Metamorphosis feature the women with physical veils of varying transparencies, which is a nod to the theme of the show but not meant to be a direct message. He elaborates, "It's not a strong message that people are supposed to read; it's more of an exploration of looking beyond the veil. It's going back to catching a glimpse of something and it's the sum of our perceptions and our education and how we were raised

and how we see the world and what we were taught." It also refers to things that people might not have seen before or didn't know existed. What those things are, however, are to be defined by the viewer because of how they perceive the painting. ●

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- 1
Augur, oil on panel,
26 x 36½"
- 2
Anonymous,
oil on panel, 60 x 40"
- 3
Daniel Bilmes in his
Los Angeles studio.
- 4
Metamorphosis,
oil on panel, 20 x 30"