

Amy Huestis

ARTIST STATEMENT

In this exhibition, the artist explores the present-day possibilities of the nude, tying them to the past through historical references to the Western European tradition in painting. Tattooed figures lounge and relax on the canvases, a portrayal of bodies and types characteristic of Huestis's home in the Pacific Northwest. In this series, the artist has executed a kind of passionate, earthy expression of the human form in painting. The figures are not drawn from life, but spring from the artist's inventive and intuitive process where the picture is "found" within the play between the artist's intention and what the canvas dictates to the artist. The paintings explore ideas of gender, class, and sensuality, referencing painters from the past while drawing us into the present through gesture, roughness, colour, and body language.

February 2011