

While at Can Serrat I worked on two different series of gouache paintings. The first series is a continuous exploration of John Berger's "Ways of Seeing." I'm interested in Berger's points involving the idea of nude v naked, men act and women appear, and vanity. Specifically thinking of Renaissance paintings where the woman being painted was for the male viewer; the male owner. I feel that this perpetuates today, especially due to a more accessible market with advertising, social media, and television. Thinking of these points I replaced women in art historical works, such as Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres's "La Grande Odalisque" and Titian's "Venus of Urbino" with blow up sex dolls. Playing with the idea of sexual desire and form through a male perspective, ownership, etc., in the most rudimentary of forms.

"You painted a naked woman because you enjoyed looking at her, put a mirror in her hand and you called the painting "Vanity," thus morally condemning the woman whose nakedness you had depicted for your own pleasure."¹

"One might simplify this by saying: men act and women appear. Men look at women. Women watch themselves being looked at. This determines not only most relations between men and women but also the relation of women to themselves. The surveyor of woman in herself is male: the surveyed female. Thus she turns herself into an object -- and most particularly an object of vision: a sight."²

"To be naked is to be oneself. To be nude is to be seen naked by others and yet not recognized for oneself."³

The second series was unplanned, and a bit unexpected. It ended up dealing with personal space, both a physical and mental. The paintings touch upon feelings of anxiety and depression, leaning towards a sarcastic (self deprecating) fashion. For example, hearing how there are studies of time spent in the shower relating directly to depression, creating the paintings "This is where I live now" (part 1 and 2). It helped that the Can Serrat shower has an amazing palette. Additionally I painted a work based on anxiety, and grabbing your lavender oil titled, "New Year, new me," featuring Can Serrat's bedroom decor.

In addition I completed a series of prints of my bedroom balcony view at Can Serrat, and painted pieces of Picasso's pigeon series on top. Going to Barcelona and seeing the Picasso museum was an amazing part of the trip.

¹ John Berger, "Ways of Seeing"

² John Berger, "Ways of Seeing"

³ John Berger, "Ways of Seeing"