

Kooness

Tell me of the birds you know

Written by Mario Rodolfo Silva

In an ageing art world, young artists constantly feel the need to renew the incredibly vast panorama of authentic images they are subject to, using past greatness to achieve present emancipation and, to predict our near future. Fine minds like the one embodied by Henry Curchod, consistently give proof of courage and ripeness, engaging into an impervious adventure within our society's archetypal and symbolic past.

Born in Palo Alto, USA, in 1992, Iranian – Australian artist Henry Curchod has been focusing his research on the theme of nostalgia, seduced and intrigued by the feeling of uncertain familiarity that one experiences in front of a powerful symbolic image. Borrowing his compositions from myths and archetypal symbology, Curchod creates complex narratives that respond to our contemporary society's need to return to an idealised and forgotten past, giving key importance to the intervention of memory into one's reminiscence of his own experience.

In Curchod's paintings, a highly emotive palette combined with the enhancement of every single brushstroke, gives birth to images of incredible expressive potential, which allow the observer to relate his own feeling of familiarity and nostalgia to the narrative that the artist puts before him. When looking at Henry Curchod's paintings, one experiences both connection and misplacement, both a feeling of understanding and confusion, trapped and intrigued by the ambiguous narratives that intertwine on the canvas' surface. The viewer experiences the power of every brushstroke, which is given importance for its individual meaning, but also for its placement within the composition. Captured by the variety of powerful brushstrokes and by the active role play that is enacted by elements of protagonism and antagonism, the observer finds himself in a moment of deep questioning, in which a feeling of familiarity leaves space to moments of uncertainty and confusion.

“It is important to be conscious of every single brushstroke. Every gesture or stroke should be scrutinised and questioned. Paint's application should not be too cavalier, as people are looking for meaning in the stroke”.

Looking deeper into Henry Curchod's process, we will discover the importance that is given to drawing as a key element that allows the artist's creative potential to break free. Curchod explains how his painterly scheme can be compared to baking, both in its preparation and in its development into “batches” of paintings. Initially, the artist spends a period of time drawing on blank paper, trying to distance himself from any referential reminiscence, in order to achieve a more personal composition. These series of ideas are then “fleshed out” or collaged into a variety of images which stand as primary conceptions of future paintings to be. Finally, the artist begins to slowly build with paint, creating layers of pure narrative expressiveness, in which oil paint is used in all of its potential and allows the artist to achieve an image that ultimately stands as a thing of its own.

In forward-looking times, young and talented minds like the one embodied by Henry Curchod, understand the importance that our archetypal past has in the planning of our future. It may be said, that images made of genuine beauty and acceptance of our dialectical present, stand nowadays as prophetic assumptions for future aesthetics to be.

Kooness

告诉我你所知晓的鸟儿

—马里奥·罗道夫·希尔瓦 (Mario Rodolfo Silva)

在一个日渐衰朽的艺术世界中，年轻艺术家时常感觉必须要更新他们所服从的这个庞大到难以置信的真实的图像库，用昔日的辉煌来实现当下的解放，并预测不久的将来。像亨利·柯桥德 (Henry Curchod) 这样思路清晰的艺术家，始终如一地证明着成熟和勇气，在我们这个社会原型化的、象征性的过去之中，展开着无所畏惧的冒险。

1992年出生于美国帕罗奥图，伊朗裔澳大利亚艺术家亨利·柯桥德的艺术实践一直专注于怀旧的主题：在一个具有强大象征意义的图像面前，人们往往会被一种不确定的熟悉感所诱惑和吸引。艺术家从神话和原型符号学中汲取构图素材，创造出复杂的叙事，对当代社会渴求回归一个理想化的、被遗忘的过去的需求给予回应，并聚焦于记忆是如何介入个体对自身经历的回忆的。

在柯桥德的画作中，一种极富情感张力的色调与每一个笔触对于情绪的渲染相结合，产生了惊人的画面表现力，使观众能够将他们对熟悉感、怀旧感的体验，与艺术家展现在其眼前的叙事联系起来。在欣赏他的画作时，人们会同时感觉到连接与错位，理解与困惑，受制于画布表面交织的模糊叙事性，又被其所吸引。观看者将会体验到每一个笔触的力量，这不仅体现在其所承载的意义，也体现在它们在构图中的位置。沉浸在各种力度的笔触、主角和对立角色的戏剧张力之中，观众将有意地进入到深层追问的状态，其中，熟悉感为“不确定性”和“困惑”留下了空白。

“重要的是，要留意每一个笔触。每一个手势或笔触都应被细致观察和质疑。涂抹颜料不可太过轻率，因为人们在笔触中寻觅意义。”

深入了解亨利·柯桥德的创作过程，我们会发现他赋予绘画如此重要的意义，并将其视为释放艺术家的创造力潜能的关键因素。柯桥德解释说，他的绘画方式堪比烘焙——无论是在准备过程中，还是在发展出“一批”绘画的过程中。起初，艺术家会花一段时间在白纸上画画，试图让自己远离任何参照性的回忆，以抵达更加个人化的构图。之后，这些想法将被“有血有肉”地塑造出来，或被拼贴成各种图像，成为艺术家未来画作的主要构思。最后，艺术家开始慢慢地用颜料构建画面，创造出多层次的纯叙事表现力，将油画颜料的潜能发挥到极致，以抵达一个最终自成一体的画面。

在这个飞速向前的时代里，像亨利·柯桥德这样年轻而有才华的艺术家，始终坚信着我们所拥有的原型化的过去将对未来规划起到重要作用。可以说，用本真的美与辩证的当下来共同实现图像的建构，如今已成为了对未来美学的先知性假设。