

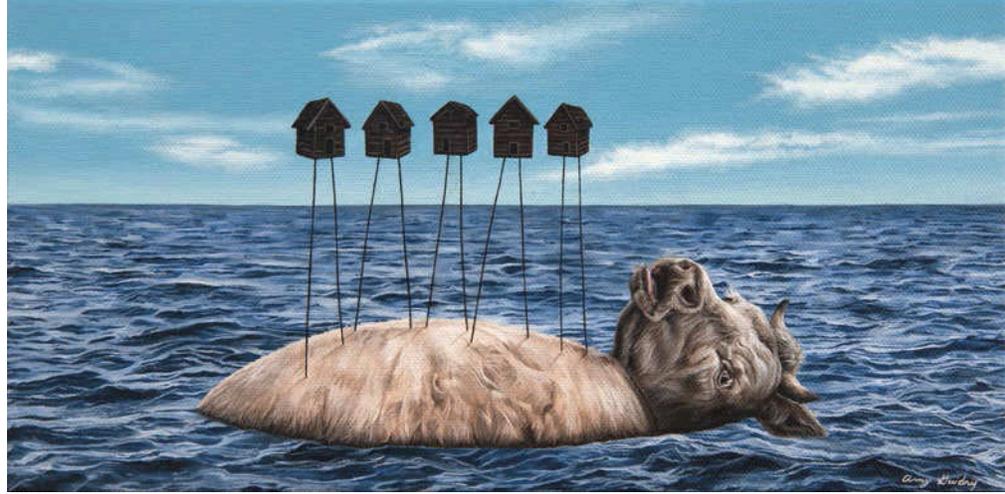


AMY GUIDRY & JESSICA GOLDFINCH

# Humanness

Dichotomies of human existence—such as life and death, and our relationship to nature—are among the topics that arise in the artwork of **Amy Guidry** and **Jessica Goldfinch**. While strikingly different in imagery and technique, the artists paint recognized subjects to convey these psychological concepts in compassionate, sensitive and thought-provoking ways.

In her series titled *In Our Veins*, Guidry explores “the connections between all life forms and the cycle of life,” she says. “Through a psychological and sometimes visceral approach, this series investigates our relationships to each other and to the natural world, as well as our role in the life cycle. Concepts such as life and death, survival and exploitation, and the interdependence and destruction of living and nonliving organisms are illustrated throughout.”



1

With meaning beyond the aesthetics, Guidry’s artwork is recognized for its connection to nature and the environment. “When someone looks at a piece,” she says, “I hope that I can get their attention long enough to stand there and look at it and think about what they’re seeing; and also get them questioning—art is all about questions.”

Goldfinch’s paintings “investigate morality issues through the use of Freudian concepts of the uncanny,” she explains. “I fuse the familiar with the unfamiliar to draw the viewer in and create a comfortable feeling only to shatter that comfort with unexpected images of human frailty. This duality parallels the paradox of mortality: in order to have life, you must have death.”

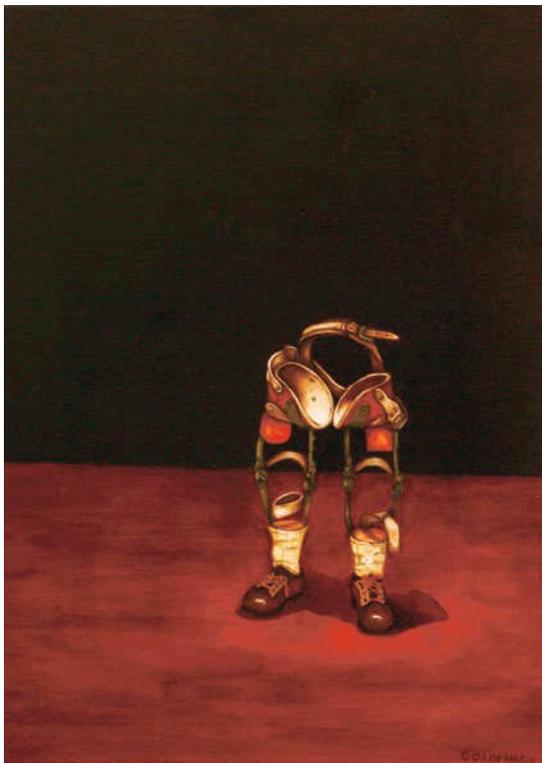
The coloring and theories in Goldfinch’s art is often drawn from the Dutch masters.

“I like the colors that are on one hand Old Mastery in that kind of richness of oil paints and the lusciousness of that, and it’s juxtaposed against the starkness and the objects I paint. It creates that tension,

that pull between the beautiful and the disturbing, and that is a metaphor for life that is both beautiful and disturbing.”

October 11 to November 1, Guidry and Goldfinch will come together for a two-artist exhibition at Barrister’s Gallery in New Orleans, Louisiana. Both residing in the state, the artists have displayed their work at the gallery previously, but this show marks their first time paired together.

As gallery director Andy P. Antippas explains, “I have shown Jessica and Amy before—separately—it is an immense pleasure for me, and I know for our audience, to have them sharing the same rooms in the gallery. Both artists resonate either in the center of the tension between the rules of formalism and the rulelessness of post-modernism—or above that tension, I don’t know which. With a clearly evolved consciousness, each, in her own way, subversively transfigures, restructures or mutates conventional iconography reminding us we inhabit a social construct that adamantly refuses to undergo the necessary transformation back to a more livable, unified and organic field theory in which we can all re-fuse the objective and the subjective, the brain and the imagination.” ●



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**Amy Guidry,**  
*Crutch*, acrylic on  
canvas, 6 x 12"

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**Jessica Goldfinch,**  
*Stand Alone*, oil on  
linen, 12 x 9"

2