

## ARTIST STATEMENT: MARTIN BRUINSMA

My artistic practice revolves around the exploration of the noir aesthetic, delving into the depths of loneliness and evoking a sense of quiet isolation. As a painter, I am fascinated by the transformative power of nighttime, where the world takes on a different, enigmatic character. Through my work, I seek to capture the essence of noir, where pieces that may seem visually unremarkable in daylight come alive under the cloak of darkness.

I find inspiration in reflecting the shadowy compositions that go unnoticed. It is within this framework that I construct my visual narratives, employing stark contrasts and atmospheric tension to convey a sense of mystery and presence.

Desolate buildings and deserted roads become the stages upon which my stories unfold. These urban landscapes, often set in New York and Los Angeles, are imbued with an eerie stillness that hints at the presence of something ominous, something about to happen or that has already occurred. Through my brushstrokes and careful composition, I invite viewers to step into these scenes, to immerse themselves in the profound isolation and introspection that accompanies the night.

The interplay of light and shadow is crucial in my work. I harness the stark contrast between the illuminated and the obscured, using it as a visual language to convey a sense of mystery and foreboding. It is through this manipulation of light that I aim to draw viewers into the emotional depths of each painting, allowing them to experience the weight of the stories embedded within.

My artistic intention is not merely to replicate reality, but to capture the essence of human experience and emotion. I employ a carefully curated color palette and brushwork to evoke the atmosphere of noir, creating an emotional resonance that transcends the confines of the visual realm. By portraying the darkness that lurks within the human psyche, I hope to provoke contemplation and introspection, encouraging viewers to either confront their own fears and desires or to find a sense of calm and serenity.

## ARTIST BIO: MARTIN BRUINSMA

Martin Bruinsma received a BA in Psychobiology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1978 and received a BFA in Illustration/Advertising from the Art Center College of Design, Pasadena in 1988. Bruinsma's work is part of private and public collections throughout California and has been shown at Brittany Davis Gallery, Sparks Gallery, Lois Lambert Gallery, and the Virginia Robinson Gardens, among others. He is a member of the Society of Illustrators and the Association of Medical Illustrators. Bruinsma lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.