



Dina Belyayeva

**Artist Portfolio**



# Artist Bio

Dina Belyayeva (b. 1967) is a New England-based, Russian-born contemporary realist artist. She received atelier style training in a small town near Moscow, famous for a historical artist colony. Early on she worked in portraiture and illustration, but after her move to the United States pursued career paths in business and academia. From 2020 she decided to dedicate herself fully to art. Her works immediately gained recognition at competitive juried exhibitions and found homes in private collections.

Dina is a member of regional art associations:

- Madison Art Society, Elected Member
- Lyme Art Association, Associate Member
- Rhode Island Watercolor Society, Signature Member

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# Artist Statement

My works are representational. As I strive for representational accuracy, I approach my subjects with an intent to capture immediacy, impermanence, and let authentic energy shine through. Authenticity and personal lens are particularly important in our meta-modern times when artists are faced with a challenge from AI to reinvent art, merge styles and imitate mastery. In times when production capacities are infinite and attention spans are short, we still remain the same biological species craving to be grounded in reality while being mesmerized by the dream realm and the infinite potential of human imagination. In my art I am trying to bridge this dichotomy for myself and, hopefully, to help my audience to pause, catch a breath and appreciate the human experience through visual means.

# Still Life Paintings





Grow a White Rose, 2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
24 x 24 in | 61 x 61 cm

The white rose is a universal symbol of purity and profound love that transcends time and space. It imbues a sense of serenity and pure love that never expires and has no strings attached. The painting was inspired by Jose Martí's poem "Cultivo Una Rosa Blanca" ( I grow a white rose), which speak to seeking peace, forgiveness, harmony and unconditional love.





Tulipmania, 2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
18 x 24 in | 46 x 61 cm

Tulips are the restless bunch. Even when cut, they sway, stir, stretch. Their movement is juxtaposed to the still solidity of the brass container and the sensible heftiness of the wooden table. The undulating nature of tulips is reminiscent of the transient nature of values that humans tend to attach to a particular object or symbol - those values tend to grow even when there is no more solid foundation left as was evidenced by the Dutch 17th century frenzy.





The Rainbow's End, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
9 x 12 in | 23 x 30 cm

This is a contemporary take on the Memento Mori tradition that playfully capitalizes on the current foodie photo culture to bring about a potent reminder that death is universal and inescapable. The gloriously succulent demise of the rainbow trout is amplified by a rainbow of colors coming from artfully selected garnishes and reflections from dishes and silverware. The scenery is as transient as a life of this aquatic dweller.





Tucked Away Memories, 2018  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 16 in | 51 x 41 cm

The painting features a few mementos and souvenirs I brought over from my childhood home. My mother gave me my old sketchbooks that she saved, an old glass vase from my room and a couple of silk scarves. As I unpacked the objects, they randomly formed a striking composition. All of them represented something fragile and impermanent, attached to past lives and faded memories. I only added a fresh cutting from a houseplant to enliven the arrangement. This was my momentary take on a memento mori motif, but without skulls, candles or hourglasses.





Le Dejeuner sur L'herbe, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas board  
20 x 16 in | 51 x 41 cm

This is a meta-modern and somewhat reductive take on Édouard Manet seminal piece from 160 years ago. The current interpretation is an attempt to remove any potential controversies while hovering between restraint and execution. What is left behind the scenes is up to you.

# **Landscape Paintings**





Thimble Islands, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas board  
11 x 14 in | 28 x 36 cm

Thimble Islands are a small archipelago off Connecticut coast with a storied past. The painting was created en plein air and captures a transitory interplay of light and color.





Waters of March, 2018  
Acrylic on canvas  
20x 20 in | 51 x 51 cm

The painting was created following a trip to Warren Falls in Vermont. The painting is executed in the expressionist style to captures the essence of the rushing water during March thaw. The cool color palette is used to convey tentative glow of the early spring sunlight.

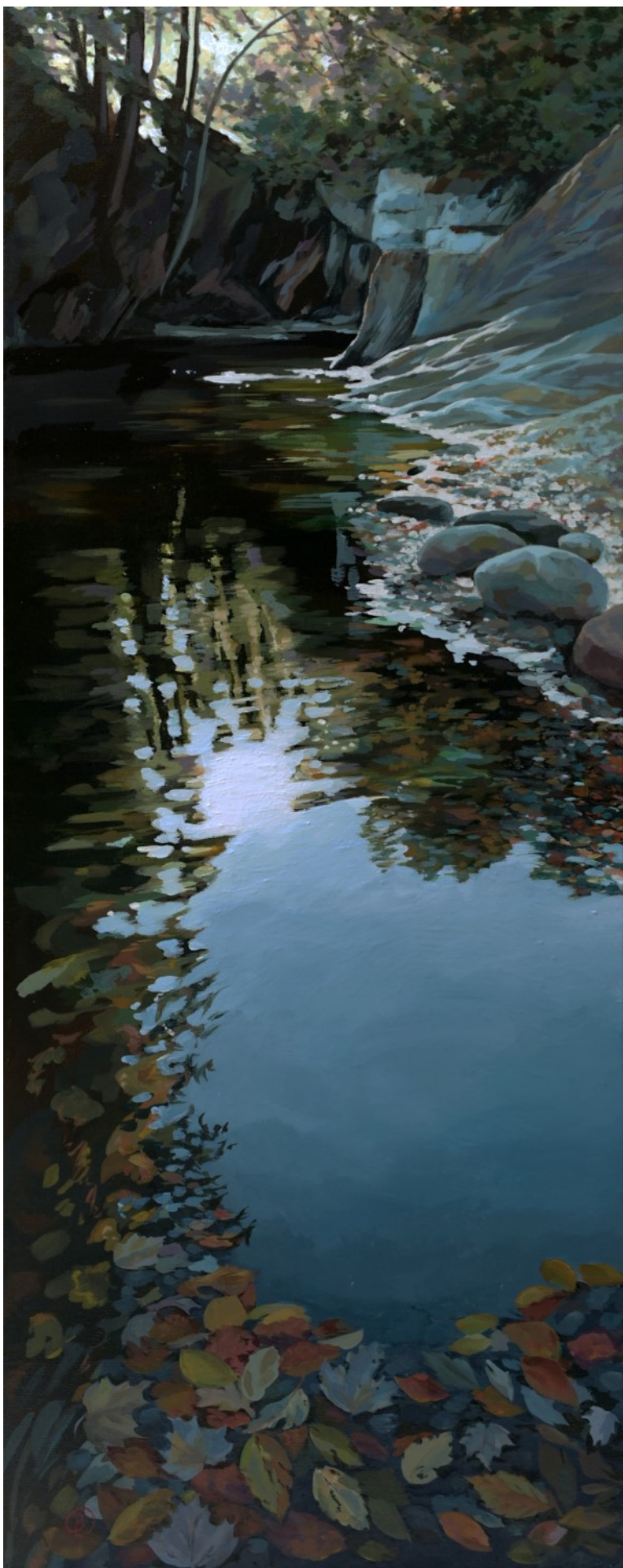




Looking Down from the Rialto Bridge , 2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
10 x 8 in | 26 x 20 cm

Venice is synonymous with gondolas and gondoliers. Even the view of a single gondola can evoke the entire cityscape. The downward view of the gondolier maneuvering across the murky waters of the Grand Canal captures the essence of the exotic locale: it is bright, dynamic, festive, and elusive.





The Secret Swimming Hole, 2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
40 x 16 in | 102 x 41 cm

The painting draws inspiration from a trip to Warren Falls in Vermont. This place features a sequence of gentle cascades along the Mad River, interspersed with a few remarkably clear and unexpectedly deep pools perfect for swimming. The cool tones and contrasting shadows enhance the enigmatic atmosphere of this hidden gem and highlight the glassy clarity of the deep water pool. natural scenery.





Beavertail Lighthouse, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas board  
16 x 20 in | 41 x 51 cm

Beavertail State Park in Jamestown, Rhode Island offers some of the most beautiful vistas along the New England rocky coastline. Its main attraction is Beavertail lighthouse, which is among the oldest lighthouses in North America.



Al Fresco Dining, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
40 x 30 in | 102 x 76 cm

The painting offers a soothing vista achieved through a rather minimalist approach to color and composition. Even horizontal brushstrokes speak to the enveloping tranquility of the scenery, while the elevated point of view and the contrasting outline of firmly planted patio umbrellas adds to the sense of temporal security. A few lamp posts beacon the viewer with an inviting soft glow. Only the muted tones and the scenery hidden by the umbrellas add distant anxiety into the mix.





A Night Ride, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
30 x 24 in | 76 x 61 cm

The painting was inspired by the impression of impervious winter darkness while walking along a desolate country road. In winter when days are short and there is no snow on the ground, the surrounding landscape becomes a dense mass of darkness interrupted only by sparse street lights or by headlights from a passing car. The visual sensation is similar to the emotional state of relentless gloominess which would be unbearable if it were not for glimmers of hope that dot the horizon.

# Figurative Paintings





The Emptinester, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
21 x 24 in | 30 x 61 cm

The Emptinester captures the feelings associated with a new-found freedom when children grew up and moved out. The juxtaposition of red, white, and black underscores the contrasting emotions of anticipatory exhilaration for the times to come and wistful longing for the past happy moments. The emptinester's gaze directed into the distance speaks to the internal dialogue that pries the heart while a strong arm gesture signifies protective force guarding of what is dear. This piece offers a vivid narrative resonating with those who experience the shift into a new chapter of life.



Screen Time, 2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
14 x 14 in | 36 x 36 cm

This portrait of a young girl conveys the impact of social isolation on children. It captures a moment when a young girl is left with what emerges on her phone screen. The blue light and shadows are a metaphor for sadness, loneliness, and void in her immediate environment. The dark outline of the phone in the child's hand symbolizes the world unseen to us.





Madison's Rock, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
24 x 20 in | 61 x 51 cm

The painting captures the wondrous awkwardness of a teenage girl precariously positioned on a rock, like a butterfly ready to spread wings and take off into the bluish vastness. The oversized boyishness of her clothes is juxtaposed against the tenderness of her profile and the lankiness of her underdeveloped frame. The limited palette, which is mostly in blue and neutral tones, speaks to the underdeveloped sense of self, tentativeness and hope.





The Queen of Sheba, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 16 in | 51 x 41 cm

The Queen of Sheba is a mystical figure with a voice of her own. Her unwavering stance of being a solitary ruler goes against expected gender roles of the time, which made her particularly attractive. The legend associated with the Queen of Sheba transcends time and beliefs and was reflected in innumerable paintings over centuries. This is a modern take on the subject depicting the queen in a state when all riddles are solved and mysteries are revealed.





Mephisto, 2023  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 16 in | 51 x 41 cm

“Mephisto” speaks to deeply personal struggles pertaining to shifting values and norms. In Faust, Mephistopheles is not the one who tempts and corrupts, but the one who summons the corrupted. The foreboding color palette and the intense menacing gaze are the conduits of the symbolism.





Rue, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 16 in | 51 x 41 cm

“Rue” is an exploration of the passing of time, body image, regret, and the sorrow that a woman may experience as she ages and settles into an older body. The intent is to bring comfort and tranquility, using the interplay of light and shadow. Warm and cool tones blend together, subtly illustrating that every gain is a loss and every loss is a gain. “Rue” is an attempt to create a classic portrait that inspires meaningful dialogue and introspection.





The Thrift Store Dress, 2021

Acrylic on canvas

20 x 16 in | 51 x 41 cm

The Thrift Store Dress painting adopts the tradition of a formal sitting portrait. The dress that the woman is wearing is barely sketched to signify her tentativeness as she copes with the idea of wearing a thrift store dress for an important event. The red drapery and chair imbue the sense of formality and uneasiness that are also reflected in her body language. Her pose is formal and rigid, her face expresses tension and insecurity. Yet, the lightness of her garment and its gentle turquoise color add hope and highlight the beauty within.

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