

# Life Drawings

My evolution as an artist has always been linked to my desire to emulate the subtleties of life. Although I use a photographic source, I try to avoid the sense of photographic space. This body of work of both individuals and groups in settings is intentionally created to avoid specificity or reference. The ambiguity of space and the unconventional notion of the figure to ground relationship relinquishes the subject matter from its traditionalist figurative past instituting a contemporary cryptic narrative in its place. Rather than capturing an individual's likeness, I am more interested in finding that connection between the subject matter and the viewer. This spiritual and compositional link in this body of drawings finds its roots in my early introduction to iconography. Growing up as a Coptic Orthodox Christian, these painted images of saints and martyrs surrounded me every time I entered the church. Although the poses in my work mimicked these iconographic origins; poised, looking out solemnly towards the audience-- the facial expressions of my subjects expose a precarious boundary between emotional subtlety and emotional clarity that icons are not allowed to reveal. These works are uncomfortably confrontational and simultaneously symbolic of the individual that exists in every one of us suggesting complete narratives bound by the gaze and the poses of the models in the artwork.

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