

In my earlier years of making art I would see shadowy ghost-like shapes on the painting surface and they would show me what to draw. This still happens sometimes if I feel like freestyling. The muse is another word for a holy spirit speaking through an artist's body, bringing form to the formless, making the hand move by a higher power.

I've been asked, "Why are your figures sometimes staring off into space? Why do they look like they've been clocked over the head?" And then someone much wiser than I told me the answer. She said, "Don't you know honey? You're making saints. They're looking up because they're full of the spirit, and you're the one bringing them that spirit." Now, after many years of making art, it may be more matter- of- fact, I'm always thinking of subject matter and there may be just plain and simple work to be done. But when I really stop to think about it, I feel certain that there's an otherworldly force at hand.



Elizabeth Fox, *Drag Queens in the Rain*, oil on panel, 11" x 16", 2014

Muse List for *Drag Queens in the Rain*:

1. The Bourbon Pub - New Orleans most popular gay bar
2. Neck Tattoo - Inspired by Southern rapper Yelawolf

Muse List for *4:30 Friday*:

1. Elevator Men - television series "Mad Men" dolls
2. Lowered Ceiling - Sets from television series *Mad Men*
3. Power and vulnerabilities of office politics



Elizabeth Fox, *4:30 Friday*, oil on panel, 13" x 18", 2011



Elizabeth Fox, *The Drop*, oil on panel, 11" x 16", 2014

Muse List for *The Drop*:

1. Scene inspired by ice fishing on Sebago Lake
2. Men on left - Jesse and Michael from the television series *Breaking Bad*

Sometimes it feels as if it's all nuts and bolts, simply form, and other times the whole thing comes to you like a gift. Sometimes you just see great scenes and you have to attempt to recreate the story. I'll see someone running and remember it, place it with something else, another activity that I may see later on and then find a setting that brings it all together. There are favorite places that I can harken to, like New Orleans, Maine, and even Orlando. Sometimes I'll delve into art history, adding favorite celebrities and outfits, or draw from street fashion. Sometimes it's about finding a sense of personal belonging, and then other times you discover the meaning of your own work after the fact. Then further down the road, the meaning of the work may change again, molding itself into something much bigger, greater, more timeless than any of us.



Elizabeth Fox, *Underground*, oil on panel, 16" x 24", 2015

Muse List for *Underground*:

1. Scene based on Boston subway and hand sculpture, *Benedictions*
2. Men on platform - Angels



Elizabeth Fox, *Sandro, Sandro*, oil on panel, 18" x 26", 2009

Muse List for *Sandro, Sandro*:

1. Sandro de America - A 1970's Argentinian sex symbol singer
2. Sandro Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*
3. Tulips - Spring
4. Seabiscuit Race Horse
5. Wooden Dog by New Orleans artist Jeffrey Cook in the collection of artist Setchie Sino
6. Empty Seat inspired by New Orleans artist Chuck Crosby who painted self portraits personified as chairs
7. Tiny Brush on Chair - A nod to Louisiana artist Douglas Bourgeois known for his extremely detailed work
8. Cookie Jars in Andy Warhol's Collection



Elizabeth Fox, *The Neighborhood*, oil on panel, 14" x 24", 2014

Muse List for *The Neighborhood*:

1. Scene inspired by the television series *Breaking Bad*
2. Girl at Bus Stop - Inspired by Australian rapper Iggy Azalea



Elizabeth Fox, *Last Room, First Room*, oil on panel, 14" x 24", 2015

Muse List for *Last Room, First Room*:

1. Figure based on a young Jackie Gleason
2. M&Ms inspired by concert riders as a 'job complete'

Muse List for *The Power to Stand*:

1. Face - Young Bette Davis
2. Butt - television series *The Hills* ' Whitney Cummings
3. Setting inspired by David Hockney's pool paintings
4. Coloring from a backdrop of Kirsten Dunst at Cannes Film Festival



Elizabeth Fox, *The Power to Stand*, oil on panel, 24" x 32", 2011