

REALISM



FORT LAUDERDALE, FL - Realism in the visual arts is the attempt to represent the subject truthfully. The painter is creating the work of art as if it were a photograph. Extreme attention to detail is shown in the work for light, shadow and colors. When a realist painter is creating a portrait or a scene of people every physical characteristic about the person(s) is seen, even to individual hairs and wrinkles on the skin.

During Art Basel at Scope Miami Beach I found several examples of Realism and modern Romanticism. Both artists depicted everyday life and celebrated the exactness of their subjects. Artist Shawn Warren showcased his series depicting the life of his brother, who is a symphony conductor and a violinist.

Realism is represented in the visual arts at many periods in time throughout history. It is noted to be a matter of technique and training, and avoids any alterations from the artist that is not represented from the subject. History sources stated that the realism art movement started in France in the 1850's.

Tim Okamura is known for his figurative paintings featuring urban characters and environments. His work, *Ennobled Apparition*, below is representative of his story-telling through images. Okamura stated in an interview with National Public Radio the following about his portraits: "There's a narrative, and I think that the people I paint, in my opinion, have a very important story that needs to be told."

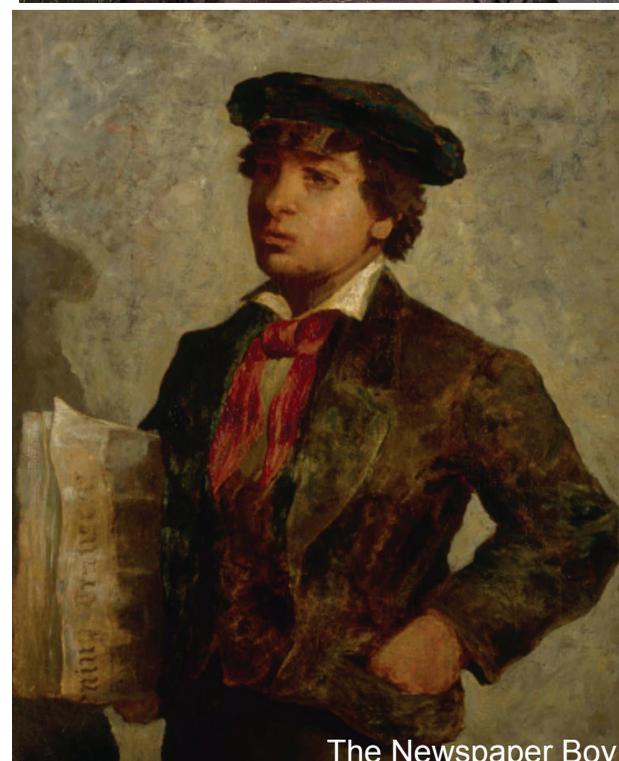
This fact left me pondering where is the American Realism starting point? I look at the paintings that are in American museums dated earlier than the 1850's and by meet the definition of realism. Leads me to conclude that parallel art movements were happening worldwide. In my research I could not find a collaborative answer for a specific beginning date for realism art in America. It is also duly noted that Black slave artisans painted realism portraits and scenery as a part of their labor from their slave masters.



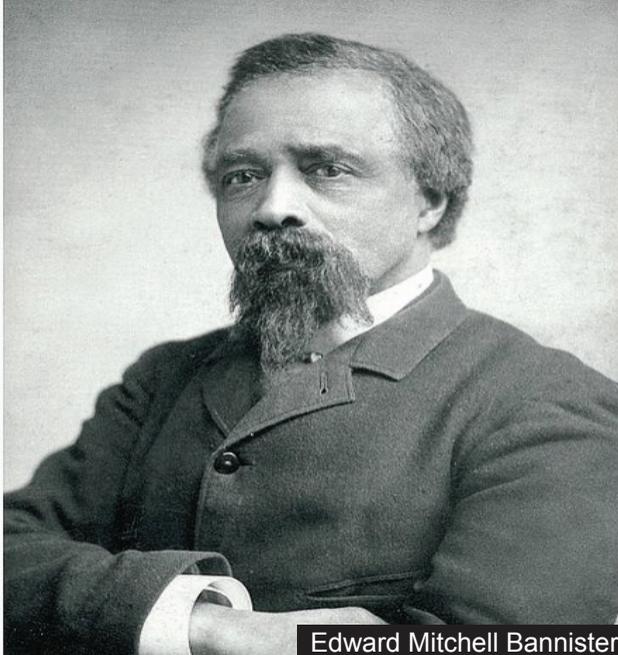
Ennobled Apparition

Realism is not to be confused with the Romanticism art movement. The Romantic artists will add their own expression into the subject matter. Like Realism the detail is present in terms of light, shadows, and extreme details, but the artist may change the colors to represent a certain feeling or add other elements into the painting to create a dramatic effect to create a certain point. Often these additional elements may reflect a political view from the artist or the enlightenment of a certain behavior that is over indulgent. The Romantic period was before Realism partly due to commissioning art was very expensive and to depict everyday life with notable political, social, religious and personal reasons.

A part of the Realism movement was to depict everyday life as opposed to romanticism could show past, present and future ideas in the work of art. One of my favorite works is from Edward Mitchell Bannister titled, "The Newspaper Boy" and now is a part of the Smithsonian collection. Bannister was born in New England in the 1840's and was well known throughout Rhode Island. He won a bronze medal for a large oil painting, "Under the Oaks" at the 1876 Centennial.



The Newspaper Boy



Edward Mitchell Bannister

ART ON HIV/AIDS

Artists of all ages have a message to share in helping eradicate this epidemic that is affecting our community.

Broward County has the second highest new infection rates of HIV in the state of Florida.



From the Broward County Dept. of Health

Florida

A total of 109,969 persons are living with a diagnosis of HIV Infection in Florida through 2014

Blacks accounted for:

- 47% (n=51,496) of total
- 38% of adult men and 68% of adult women
- 79% of the pediatric cases
- 27% of MSM (men who have sex with men)
- 52% of IDU (Injection Drug User)
- 72% of heterosexuals
- 57% of AIDS case deaths in 2014

According to Florida's 2014 Population Estimates 15% of Florida's population is black

United States

CDC estimates a total of 933,941 persons living with a diagnosis of HIV infection through 2013

Blacks accounted for:

- 43% (n=398,645) of total
- 37% of adult men and 61% of adult women
- 65% of pediatric cases
- 31% of MSM (men who have sex with men)
- 52% of IDU (Injection Drug User)
- 64% of heterosexuals
- 47% of deaths with HIV infections in 2013

According to the 2013 US population Estimates, 12% of the US population is black.

