

# **Vasilios Avramidis**

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## **Artist Statement**

Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote that 'beauty will save the world'. My work seeks to explore the nature of beauty, and how beauty in art might play a role in the salvation of the world. To explore this theme, my art seeks to delve deeper than the mere physical beauty with which our popular culture is all too obsessed, and tap into the spiritual realm, from where all true beauty flows. I seek to show the interconnectedness of all living things, the transcendence of human consciousness, and our link to the divine.

The themes of beauty, salvation, and interconnectedness are in a continual state of flux in my work as I seek to discover their true realities. Although my work has primarily been in the realist genre of portraiture, I have recently found myself exploring more abstract methods of expression. My work finds its true balance in the two, both realist and abstract. This method of working follows the union within nature of both abstraction and realism. On the surface level we are aware of reality as we perceive it, and are thus able to represent it in a manner that is recognizable to the viewer, but once we dig deeper into nature and break past its surface reality, we enter a world of abstraction. The deeper we go the more abstraction we find. Certainly on the level of the quantum we find an almost mystical world of vibrations and energies, yet this is not the end of our journey inward. Somewhere deeper yet we find our truest nature; our link to the divine. It is here where abstraction finds its most complete beauty. My work seeks to marry these various levels of reality, from the surface level all the way down to the spiritual realm, creating a realist abstraction that communicates beauty, mystery, and interconnectedness.

Ideas for my imagery come from many diverse sources, including: Eastern Orthodox iconography, Buddhist imagery, astronomy, biology, and cosmology. Christian mysticism and the writings of the desert fathers inspire my journey inwards, where I seek to explore the mysteries of life. It is here that my art begins to come alive. The sciences also feed my desire to find the deeper abstraction of things; scientific imagery shouts the wonders of God's creation. Nature speaks of the creator's glory. The complexity with which God created the universe is a testimony to His creativity, and an inspiration to ours. Can we ever delve deep enough to unravel the mysteries? I don't believe so. But it is in seeking that we find. Therefore let us remain ever seeking yet never fully knowing. This is the essence of beauty. Jesus said, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." This is the realm in which my art seeks to inhabit. I seek to create art filled with the Spirit, art that points the way to salvation, yet does not make the false-presumption of being salvation itself. My art should serve as a signpost, beckoning its viewer, 'come, salvation is this way ... stay a while, enjoy the the mystery, but don't stop here, go deeper still.'