

Framed Scenes

Aquilino's *Framed Scenes* Series presents us with bordered worlds. Snapshots of fantastical scenes that have been deliberately enclosed, imagination controlled, as images push and react against their frames. Aquilino's imagination in these paintings seems to stem from a humanised world where people appear deeply in touch with what surrounds them; figures literally morph into their environment. It is apt then that Aquilino expresses this through paintings where frames become part of the picture, where subject and surrounding become one. There is a unity created through this mergence, carried by the colours used, as figures, surrounding and frame are all submerged in a similar palette. The paintings are awash with soft and natural greys, yellows and blues; scenes bathed in colour like light, as it covers and encompasses them gently, bringing out definition through mutual tone.

Exploradores Virtuales' unity glows in the sandy gold of the earth and the buildings that spring from it, the buildings then in turn transforming into emerging figures. These figures are architectural, with honed limbs of stone, doorways in faces, and fingers chiselled like pillars. Bodies and walls erupt from one another, barely decipherable, carved from the same hand; figure and building are reflectively morphed in an amalgamative celebration of form. In *Laberinto con Puente* the curves of overly emphasised bridges are mirrored in the profiles of faces. The *Framed Scenes* Series entices us into worlds where there are no boundaries, where the Devil balances precariously on the capital of a pillar (*La Salida del Diablo*) and architectural structures contract to form mazes and labyrinths where not even perspective behaves. The specific use of architectural form, usually so grounded in mathematical accuracy, encourages the surrealism of these paintings. This fantastical atmosphere is then reinforced by the Classicism Aquilino employs, fluted columns and curling capitals, hinting of myth and faraway lands. These are frames of worlds where no hierarchy exists between object and subject, so unified are they in the celebration of shape and form.

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