



HUMAN NATURE : By Marcel Witte

Ever since he can remember, Marcel has had a strong bond with nature. His art shows human behavior and shortcoming, visualized through animals. In his own unique style, he wants to communicate to his audience in a gentle way.

'Plastic seal' is a subtle reference to the 'plastic soup' (great Pacific garbage patch); a gyre of marine debris particles in the central North Pacific Ocean.





In what way does nature play a role in your life?

During my holidays I go into nature to recharge and focus mostly on animals in my work.

In my paintings I use animals to tell a political or social story. I'm inspired by the way that the ancient Greeks used animals to visualize fables and show human nature, without becoming too personal.

In what way did creativity play a role in your childhood?

For as long as I can remember I've made drawings of animals. You wouldn't find any houses or figures or cars in my books.

As a child I wanted to become a forester. My ultimate dream was to live in the forest with deer around my house, driving a Jeep: drawing would be a hobby.

Which route did you travel to become an artist?

I went to the College of Forestry and after graduating, I worked a couple of years for Het Utrechts Landschap. At first I drew and painted only for friends and family. After presenting a plan for nature conservation as a visual story, my employer asked me to make more illustrations and from that moment on more organizations started to contact me.

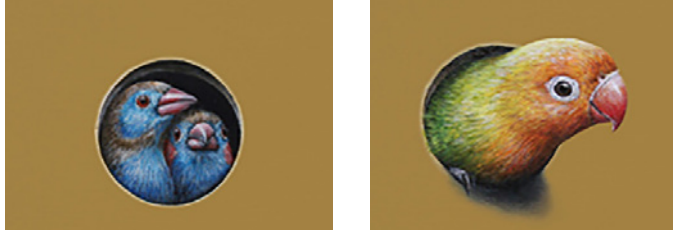
In 2003, I started painting animals like I do now. As a test I put a couple of my paintings on artolive.nl. Within a week I sold three of my paintings and gallery owners started asking for exhibitions. Because it was such a success I decided to become a professional artist and quit my day job.

Who and what inspires you and in what way?

Observing people in their common routine often makes me wonder how I can translate this into a painting. In my field, issues in our society or history are an important subject.

Can you take us through your creative process?

Before I start painting, I visualize the entire story - from the colour of the



'Multicultural' is a painted installation of 40 small canvases (birdhouses), symbolizing a harmonic metropolis visualized by using different species of birds.

Fun fact: The canvases are sold individually and are replaced with new "inhabitants"

'Migration': A polar bear mother with two cubs standing on a mattress of air, searching for a new habitat, like refugees.



“THE ANIMAL LOOKS AT ME
AND I FEEL A CONNECTION
BETWEEN US.”

background to the way the animal
will be positioned on the canvas.

To get familiar with every little detail
of the animal I do a lot of research
and with this knowledge I draw a
sketch on my computer. The animal
will be depicted in a nearly life-size
manner on the canvas.

The background gets a couple of lay-
ers of the same colour paint. After the
paint has dried, the image is sketched
with lead-pencil filled with paint in
the darkest colour of the animal.

To paint the animal I use a thinner
brush. I start with the eyes. the ani-
mal looks at me and I feel a connec-
tion between us. This way I can paint
the animal’s emotions.

Next I start with its fur. Hair after
hair, layer after layer and from dark
to light. When the image is finished
I take an even closer look, to maybe
add some detail.

Finally the artwork looks finished.

marcelwitte.com



‘Behind the scenes’: The diptych of
two canvasses are a reference to the
recreational hunting. There’s a living
creature behind the trophy on the wall.

STRETCH



Last year DDW was such an amazing experience
I decided on going, not for one, but two days this
year. But even then I still couldn’t see everything.
That’s why I chose to show you a couple of the
projects inspired by nature. ▶

 **dutch design
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