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A VISIT TO ALVAR'S STUDIO



Alvar Suñol's home studio in Costa Brava, Spain is an enchanting space full of rich history and nostalgic significances. The eighteenth century stone home sits on a hillside lot and reminds Alvar of the beauty of Spain. Alvar paints with the natural light that filters through a large window that faces the verdant garden to the west. Within the studio are canvases, boards, and tubes of paint sprawled about to show that the artist is always at work, that the organized chaos is part of his creative process. Over the last few years, Alvar has transitioned from his signature lithograph process to large-scale canvases and board paintings that encompass a variety of subjects, ranging from ethereal interiors to biblical narratives.

In whichever subject Alvar chooses, his home and studio play an important role within his work. The contrast of the interior and exterior within his paintings can be likened to the contrast of the interior and exterior of his home studio. The interior is a harmonious space riddled with creative triggers: the hour of the clock, paintings by his favorite artists hanging on the walls, a variety of art history textbooks, the dining room table or living room console, and even technological devices such as a microwave or Macbook. These everyday objects find their way into Alvar's work and reiterate the fact that for Alvar art and life are one in the same. He is not able to decipher where art ends and when life begins or vice versa, because for Alvar, art is life. The exterior of his studio represents the endless bounty of beauty and inspiration that have beckoned artists for centuries. The exterior world, with its architecture, verdure, and natural light appears in his work to show that meaning, metaphor, and creativity does not only exist within the studio space but everywhere.

