

Divine Inspirations: The Spiritual Paintings of Alvar Suñol

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Spiritual means relating to the soul or the nonphysical. The paintings of Alvar Suñol are transcendent and divine creations. Even though oil paintings are made from linen canvas, oil paints and pigments, wooden stretchers and varnish, his paintings are literally windows or doorways into the spiritual world. This is especially true of the paintings of Alvar that are based upon the Bible. His work is monumental, masterfully portraying the most significant religious stories and lessons for humanity to see. This is why Alvar is so significant for our generation and the generations to follow. Alvar Suñol Munoz-Ramosxx opens our eyes to a hidden and concealed spiritual realm.

The word spirit can be used as a verb. One can be spirited away which means that one is transported rapidly and in a secretive way. This is what the viewer experiences in front of the paintings created by Alvar Suñol. One is simply spirited away and transferred into another world or another reality. The world is mystical and supernatural. It is rare for a successful contemporary artist to be so interested in Bible stories as subject matter, this makes Alvar Suñol unique for our day.

The stories of the Bible have been painted many thousands of times over the centuries. In fact, paintings of Bible stories form the primary foundation of Western art history. Alvar's interpretations are always fresh and inventive and this is why he is recognized by museums as

a museum level artist. Museums are repositories or storehouses where humanity places what it deems as the most important treasures. One example of this kind of significant Bible story painting is Alvar's portrayal of the Nativity. In this remarkable painting Alvar sets the scene of the miraculous birth of Christ, where God himself becomes human flesh in the home of a contemporary room in Barcelona. The viewer sees the story of the Nativity from a totally new perspective. This is true of every Bible painting by Alvar and he makes this possible by his own innovations and inventions.

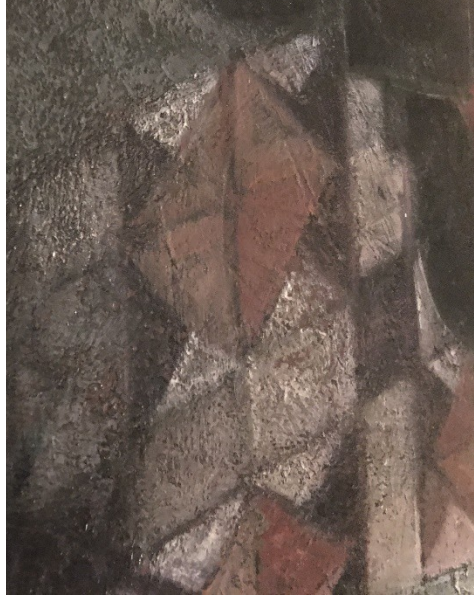


The artist keeps us grounded to this earth through various techniques or instruments incorporated into his style. An example of this is Alvar's use of modern day or contemporary objects and items. These items from today makes the viewer feel like the Bible stories matter now. Seeing a bookcase, a chest of drawers, or a lamp from today in a Bible painting gives the viewer comfort and allows the viewer to relate to the lessons taught in the Bible story. By including contemporary furniture and every day household items, Alvar helps us to understand

that the audience should be able to relate to these stories even though they are centuries old. They are old but they are new. The Bible stories are timeless.



Alvar Suñol always incorporates a Spanish motif into his paintings, specifically it is a style relating to Barcelona which is his home. He uses Spanish patterns and colors as one would see in the tiles on the floors or walls throughout Barcelona. Alvar is saying “I am the artist and I am from Barcelona.” He is proud of his heritage and traditions; he boldly proclaims who he is. Through his brush strokes, he shouts: “These Biblical paintings are for my country and from my country. We value these stories as Spaniards and I am uniquely presenting them to you, whoever you are. Learn them. Live them. Love them.” This is an aggressive and unabashed message to the world. Alvar is an artistic evangelist.



Another instrument the artist uses to tether us to the earth as he explores the realm of the spiritual is his approach to the face of the figures in his paintings. Every face in an Alvar painting is similar. The viewer can always identify a painting of Alvar Suñol by the way faces are portrayed. They are like 'spirit faces', showing the other worldliness of the figures. He gives us sight into their souls, rather than displaying unique facial feature with various hairstyles or colors, skin tones, chins, noses or ears. These spirit faces have uniformity and they all look the same. Their sameness gives us a stability to their humanity. We can see ourselves in every figurative depiction in every Alvar painting because of this. The figures are spiritual yet they are human and represent the uniformity of our humanity, we are all the same. The viewer is a participant in the painting, identifying with the individuals he portrays in the paintings.



The great masters of Western art are literally incorporated into the paintings of Alvar at various times. Look at his Last Supper painting and you will find Michelangelo's architectural rendering of St. Peter's Basilica cleverly held by one of the apostles. Take a look at the Annunciation painting and you will see a miniature version of Fra Angelico's painting from 1438. In Alvar's Nativity painting, he places a small copy of the Nativity painting by (add artist and year). Why does Alvar do this? He is giving homage to the great masters of religious art. He humbly asks if he can be associated with their history and profound impact upon the world. Alvar's paintings indeed show us that he has the hand of a master from our day in his poignant and profound paintings depicting these treasured Bible tales.



Secrets abound within the paintings of Alvar. The viewer looks for hidden messages and clues to understand the deep meanings of the Bible narratives. He uses different coding methods to reveal his thoughts and inner emotions about the stories.

In conclusion, Alar Suñol has created an incredible body of artistic work over his lifetime. His art that is based upon the Bible is unique and one of a kind in its contribution to the world. The portrayals are timely and suitable for today's audience. An audience that desperately needs faith and hope. There is incredible intricacy and complexity in the way the artist arranges these most substantial otherworldly stories. Alvar transports the viewer into mystical religious

territories. He is truly a modern day master. Over the many years to come, Alvar Suñol's Biblical art will continue to resound and resonate for generations.