



Girl by the Window, acrylic on canvas, 36" x 24"

Andrei Acris

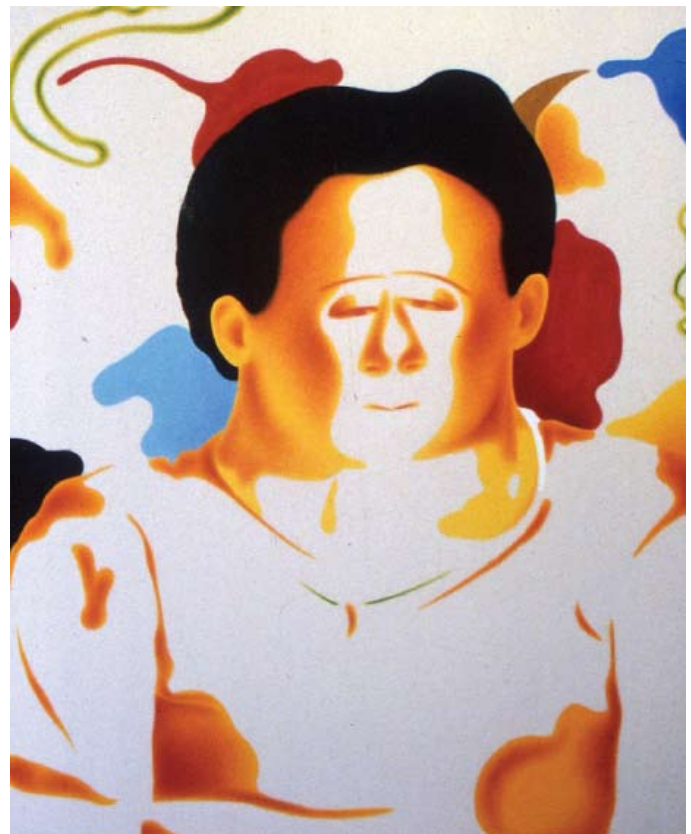
IN HIS LUSH, SUN-SOAKED PORTRAITS, Romanian-born artist, Andrei Acris, is able to capture on the faces of his subjects a wealth of emotion in a single instant. A mere 22-years old, the precocious young artist enjoys exploring such universal themes as love, lust, ambition, determination, and self-discovery, themes indicative of his age. Such are emotion easily glimpsed on the subdued expressions of the characters he paints. Also, by using a merging technique, whereby his subjects melt into one another, he is able to capture the alternate facets of a single individual, or alternately, the unity of a couple in love.

With the use of acrylic, Acris will place his subjects directly beneath a sunbeam. His warm palette, filled with rich oranges, and vibrant purples and blues, lends his paintings the same nostalgic qualities of a memory. By basking his subjects in sunlight, he punctuates

the singular emotion they're feeling in that instant. The intensity of his lighting is contrasted with a subtlety in the gestures he uses. There is nothing dramatic about his subjects' expressions. Moreover, he prefers to small gestures that advertise stronger emotions. Through the use of the seemingly mundane – a crane of the neck, a closed eye, a raised shoulder – he is able to depict an entire world of thought.

In *Girl by the Window*, a woman, basked in light, is embraced by her lover. Her eyes are heavy, and her mouth only slightly upturned. He, on the other hand, is looking away as he holds her. Both subjects, however, appear completely lost in their embrace. Their faces are melded mid-nuzzle, and their shared contact result in warmth. One can see heat emanating from underneath his hand, which is holding her arm. The act is a simple tender show of affection, and the melting effect is a manifestation of the subjects' unity and of the feelings they share. His use of bare skin also draws out the sensuality of the encounter. Her bare leg, suspended at a slight angle, is completely evoking. It is a haunting detail, the

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Girl in Orange, acrylic on canvas, 20" x 16"



Girl with the Yellow Hat, acrylic on board, 20" x 16"

type that might infect a memory. As a result, it engages the viewer, and makes the painting that much more powerful.

Acris also enjoys playing the role of voyeur. His leggy portraits of individual women, the two different angles of themselves merging,

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are erotic overtures to the subject. In *Girl with Apple Tree*, a young woman with her hair tied back closes her eyes while the sun hits her face. Green fabric drapes across her knee, drawing attention to the flesh underneath. In this instance, Acris used light to show off the woman's muscle tone. It is a very careful and tender depiction. One senses that what they are watching is not so much a young woman as someone's fantasy of a young woman. She almost appears to be performing for the viewer.

She is in full possession of her sexuality, almost as if she is embodying sexuality, the way one does in a fantasy. She is confident, brazen

even. One aspect of her is pulling at another aspect. The face being drawn in is more subdued. It is almost as if one part of her is trying to encourage the other, trying to enliven it. Such is a struggle one comes across in youth.

Acris' paintings are seemingly simple constructions that in actuality depict a wealth of very complex themes. He has said, "in painting, one's intentions should always gravitate towards a genuinely fresh plastic vocabulary, since originality is the starting point of everything worthwhile." He is successful in this aim, which is why it is difficult to compare him to any other artist. While many have addressed the same issues as he, Acris ascribes to his work with a totally unique style.

In spite of his age, Acris has endured a magnitude of experiences, and such comes across in his work. His family moved to Montreal, Canada shortly after the fall of communism. Acris took up painting two years later. In 1997, his family moved again to North Carolina, where the artist still lives and paints. Perhaps it is through his many travels that Acris has settled on such universal themes to cover in his work. -Daisy Carrington

www.andreiacris.com

www.art-mine.com



Girl in Blue Shirt, acrylic on canvas, 20" x 16"