



YOTAM ZOHAR

BORN

Jerusalem, Israel. 1984

WORKS

New York City (Brooklyn)

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University,
BFA in painting

Eastern Illinois University,
MA in painting

MATERIALS

Oil on wood panels, digital optical
tools (cameras and computers)

SUBJECT MATTER

Human figures in a real setting
and trying to bridge an essential
emotional and narrative gap
between subject and viewer.

INSPIRATION

People with a striking or
compelling pose or face. An
aesthetic response to a scene or
the beginning of a narrative.

For more information:
www.yotamzohar.com
www.stac.edu/amag

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

These paintings are made from composited photos taken on the New York City subway. The subjects do not know they are being photographed and Zohar does not engage them in conversation or ask permission. This separation between artist and subject enhances the voyeuristic quality of the work and opens up the possibility of varied narratives.

TO TAKE AWAY

Consider the way that a painting acts as a conduit between the viewer and the subject of the work. The viewer is one degree of separation from a direct candid observation of the people in the paintings. In this sense the paintings are about the act of looking, and in a larger sense they are about the human compulsion for empathy.

HOW COULD THIS RELATE?

CREATIVE WRITING

Each painting is a bit like a poem in that it reduces a life to a single moment, at once both infinitesimally brief and eternal. What stories can you create from these characters?

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Zohar composites multiple photos to create the source images for his paintings, yet they are actual people photographed surreptitiously. How is this different from showing the photos themselves? Would the paintings change if the subjects knew they were modeling for an artist? Does this increase or decrease their "public isolation"?

PHYSICS

How does figurative painting capture the energy of the figures it depicts? Can this work be seen as a comment on energy within the framework of time?



AZARIAN MCCULLOUGH ART GALLERY