

Artist Statement- Shadow of a Former Self series

These paintings are from an extensive body of work that involve my profound attraction to painting objects, architecture and people in a state of deterioration. I find tremendous beauty in the aging process and enjoy capturing this charm. I believe all beauty is inherently flawed and that the true essence of an object lies in it's ability to engage the viewer in spite of what it may represent in the physical realm; that when an object is in an active process of decomposition, all pretence is stripped away leaving it vulnerable and honest.

I experience automobile wrecking yards as adventure lands, where thousands of heaps of junk are huddled together and strewn across many acres. The landscape is covered with gutted rusted body parts, abandoned wheel wells, broken shards of glass and engine parts, and the pungent smell of gasoline, oil and other toxic substances permeates the air.

Forsaken and forlorn, these cars decay while nature flourishes around them. They will never move again on their own power, as moss grows on their hoods and nature reclaims the inside of their torsos. Plants creeping over taillights and headlights and ferns wrapping around door handles, draw the eye to styling elements in a way you might ignore if you were looking at a restored car.

During my time spent in these environments, I experienced a sense of loss in seeing these beauties decompose. Their patina highlighted their once shiny and most elegant design. Mindful of the fact that these fine machines were once functional, the automobile cemetery is a remarkable environment, both haunting and inspiring.

In Miami Florida, I came across several of these car wrecking yards and found myself needing to capture these precious relics before they met their final demise at the hands of the car crushing machine which reduced the size of their scrap metal for transportation to the steel mill. My intention with this series was to create a visual dialogue between the past and present which both echo and contribute to appreciating the cycle of life experience.