
Know Not Thy Pending Fate

Oil on Canvas, 45'x62", 2015.

Know Not Thy Pending Fate conveys how I feel about the state of human kind- sometimes in turmoil, sometimes rising above. This piece was inspired by love, loss, struggle, and an urge to understand how to overcome.

The idea was conceived in a dream in Florence at the beginning of my 3-year stay, and followed me for 9 years before completion. It is a tribute to Dante's "Divine Comedy," which was written while in exile from his homeland of Florence. This creation of his spoke of how the choices we make in life follow us into death. As he points out: in the realm of the inferno, we remain physically locked tightly to one another, yet we are unaware of how close we are- unknowingly disconnected, absorbed in our own self-interests, and lost. In the side panels of the painting we see no faces- they are stuck in limbo surrounded by darkness. Their attempt to shield themselves from the shame of their judgment (harsh, like a mirror of the judgment they passed onto others) has contorted and compressed them. Those who are there could remain there forever.

The triptych's central, arched panel represents a space beyond that of the side panels. The figures are no longer stagnant, and as they uncurl and rise up we begin to see their faces. The central figure is Dante's guide and muse, Beatrice, who reaches down to help bring others up and away from a terrible fate.