

Brad Overton



Suspension, oil on canvas, 60" h x 60" w



Double Happiness, oil on Belgian linen, 30" h x 30" w



Obsidian Butterfly
Oil on canvas
80" h x 52" w

Brad Overton: Master of Mystery, Weaver of Spells



Mestiza, oil on panel, 27.5" h x 21.5" w
35.5" h x 29.5" w (framed)

Brad Overton's dreamlike series of realistic figures in mysterious, haunting costumes and settings take us on a journey into the collective unconscious, that beckoning dark river of imagination and electric connection. He cautions us not to "be afraid of dark places," for it is by diving deep into the world of metaphor, symbol, and mythology that his boldly original work emerges.

Overton has been drawing all his life, but it was during his years at the University of Utah that his many talents coalesced to shed light on his ultimate path. He pursued a triple major—theater, music, and art. To this extraordinary mix he added

poetry, studying with and inspired by Poet Laureate Mark Strand. Brad was talented enough that he could easily have built a career in any of these areas. For example, he was a talented tenor with a four-octave range exploring opera. But in the end, it was painting that won out, a career where he could unite and share everything he'd learned and loved.

Each of Overton's paintings is an unending exploration of beauty and narrative. Aztec, Greek, and Roman gods and goddesses spring to life in rich, multi-faceted scenes filled with an amalgam of cultural and literary references. They work on multiple levels—each is compelling simply as art, but, beyond that, each also conjures fantastical metaphysical worlds, visions from our most secret dreams.

Overton's recent large-scale masterwork, *Obsidian Butterfly*, exemplifies the extensive influences in his subject matter. It powerfully reflects the artist's grounding in the theatrical drama of opera. There are the multiple references to *Madame Butterfly* in the figure's kimono, her open-armed stance, her magnificent corona-like headdress and white geisha-style face makeup. Yet, as with many of Overton's figures, duality is ever-present. She is also Itzpapalotl, the Aztec warrior goddess, symbol of



Ophelia Rising, oil on canvas, 48" h x 60" w

protection, and a part of the artist's Calavera Catrina series. Clues to this underlying narrative are seen in her traditional Mexican peasant skirt, the blended symbology of her makeup, and the presence of the poisonous coral snake at her feet.

Persistence has played an important role in Overton's career. "I come from a long line of hardworking, entrepreneurial people," says Brad, "people who pushed through adversity to achieve their personal best. I've had some great mentors along the way, but those who have

been discouraging have helped me by making me even more determined to succeed – I just work harder!"

Recognition of Brad Overton's artistic mastery continues to grow. He's had numerous one-man shows across the Southwest and his paintings are in corporate, university, and private collections. The quality of his craftsmanship and the originality of his subject matter invite us in, weave a magic spell – and isn't that what art is meant to be – something both personal and universal that fires our imaginations?



Sonoran Persephone, oil on canvas, 48" h x 80" w

 **Blue Rain**

Blue Rain Gallery
130 Lincoln Avenue, Suite C
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505.954.9902

www.blueraingallery.com

Desdemona in Blue
(detail)
Oil on canvas
48" h x 48" w