



# Magno Laracuate

Magno Laracuate has turned his artistic eye on the cost of mankind's lost connections - with the world and his fellow man.

In his "Heavenly Body" series, Laracuate paints human outlines gathered on a shoreline, dwarfed by the turbulent land around them and the sea stretching to the horizon.

"In these paintings, you see earth and one person, two people, with the people dwarfed by the world around them," he said. "It reminds us that that in the beginning we respected nature because we were part of it, we were connected to it."

These connections bound man and earth to each other, Laracuate said. But as man distanced himself from his natural environment, he also lost the power those connections instill, dwelling more on differences than similarities.

"When we're talking about nature we're talking about the planet, the universe," he said. "We are the earth, we eat from the earth, and we drink the water. There is no country in the water, it just flows. There is no division.

"We say black and white, but there is no such thing. You go to the bathroom like everybody else."

“It is in our minds that we put these divisions,” Laracuente said. “But in the end we have the same feelings, we suffer, we cry, we need a roof over our heads, we need to eat.”

Laracuente started drawing when he was eight and has worked most days since. When he was 14 his father gave him an art encyclopedia, sparking Laracuente’s obsession with “primitive art,” which retains that connection with the natural world.

“I love primitive art because it was really in touch with nature,” he said. “In that art, in all the aboriginals, you see the same rituals. They lived with the earth and paid tribute to it. Basically, these people continued to respect nature.

Modern men and women must open ourselves to lost connections, Laracuente said, if we are to save the planet and ourselves. That’s why, in his latest pieces, landscapes take on an almost otherworldly form.

“That’s why I paint the land like it was another type of world,” he said. “That’s why nature is big and powerful, and the people small.”

“We’re killing the world, we’re killing each other,” he said. “We’re advancing in technology, but that doesn’t mean we’re advancing as human beings.”

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