

La Isla de las Artistas

The newspaper Key Biscayne deserves

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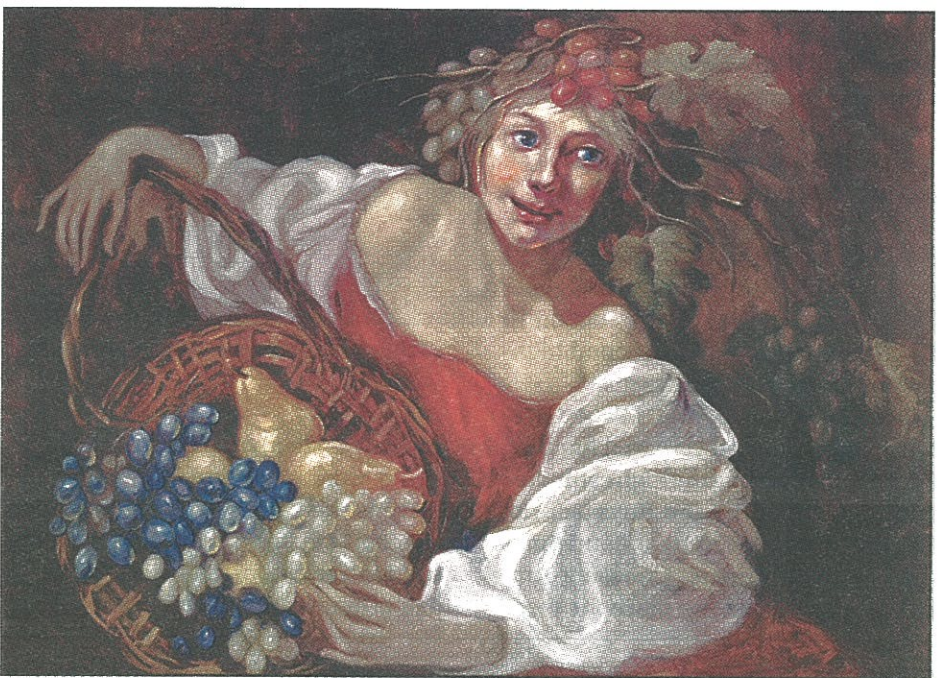
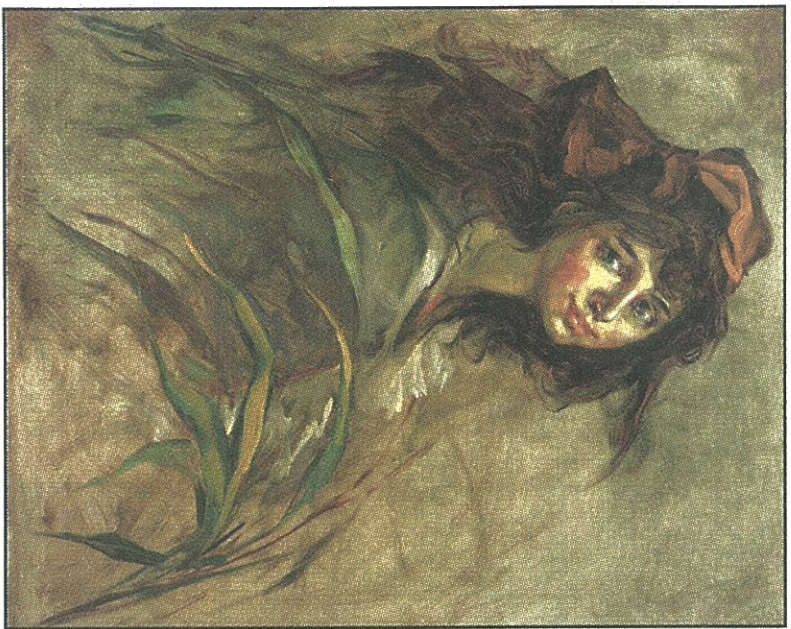
Dulce Beatriz: Light From the Depths of the Soul

Dante's ascent to Paradise was accomplished by affixed gaze into Beatrice's eyes by which he was lifted, with incredible swiftness, through the heavens. Beware; a single look to the paintings of Dulce Beatriz (literally, 'Sweet Beatrice' in Spanish) might take you to places you have not been before.

What makes such talent and skill possible? "I have painted almost every day of my life since I was three years old, and it has been a long life," Beatriz laughed. "I attended school, graduating from the Normal de Kindergarten as a teacher at 18, only to join the Escuela de Bellas Artes of Havana. After the long 12-hour classes, I rushed to the Círculo de Bellas Artes to keep practicing and learning." At the same time, she completed her formation as music at the Havana Conservatory. Painting finally won.

"My life revolves around art. On the rare occasions when I am not painting, I am reading about art, watching art programs or going to museums to learn. You never stop learning..." Beatriz has visited many countries looking for inspiration for her landscapes and her portraits, including Egypt, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, America and, of course, her beloved Spain.

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Sofía Museum in Madrid. Oh, and I forgot museums in Nicaragua, Venezuela, Guatemala and Bolivia, where they exhibit a 'marina' done especially for that country that has no access to the sea."

We asked Beatriz how was she able to devote her life to art. "Without my husband Leonardo's support, it would have been impossible. We escaped Cuba in the early '60s, and we struggled very hard at the beginning. His skill as a restaurateur landed him several assignments from museums and private collectors, which enabled us to move forward and gave me room to develop my art. He has been an extraordinary companion, his support and encouragement are an integral part of my success," she explained while giving a loving glance to her lifelong companion.

Leonardo is also responsible for

helping make her work accessible to everyone. "An original painting might be out of reach for many people, but we have developed very affordable giclée prints on canvas that are excellent reproductions. Dulce supervises each and every one of them to make sure the colors, luminosity and appearance are faithful to her vision," Leonardo added.

Beatriz is now ready for a new painting as she starts to accommodate jars, an old metal vase, fruits, and a gorgeous piece of cloth on a table. She circles the scene with extreme attention, looking for a balanced composition, revealing highlights, and making the final arrangements that her soul dictates - a soul that will reveal itself in an explosion of light, texture, and colors when we contemplate the finalized work. (www.dulcebeatriz.com) ■