

Personal Comments - Readers & Bookstores

Within my series of paintings about stores and interiors readers and bookstores take up a special place. This has everything to do with me being an avid reader myself. Not a day goes by when I'm not reading.

I love to read about art obviously, but literature, history and some philosophy books are amongst my favourites as well. I'm a strong believer that education doesn't stop after graduation and you still have to keep on developing yourself no matter what. This all lead to me painting scenes from bookstores, libraries and readers alike.

If you have any questions, remarks or are interested in purchasing a painting please don't hesitate to contact me anytime. I would be happy receiving your comments or inquiries and respond to them personally.

kind regards, Gerard Boersma

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The Catalogue, acrylics on masonite, 37.6 x 27.6" or 93,3 x 70 cm, 2005

The Catalogue

During one of my visits to the library I couldn't find the book I was looking for. That inspired me to make this painting of a young woman behind a computer. She's looking for knowledge, but she just can't seem to find it. However, the woman doesn't stop here. She doesn't give up and uses the computer to get ahead. It's the same way with many goals you try to reach in life. You can't quit after one attempt, you have to keep going at it. Nothing happens if you just sit down and wait. The roast chicken doesn't fly right into your mouth. The woman on this painting knows this.

American Bookstore

Edward Hopper once said that is quite difficult to paint indoors and outdoors at the same time. While painting American Bookstore I found out that he's right, but it isn't impossible.

The painting is situated at the American Bookstore at De Spui in Amsterdam. The store is known for selling only books in English. Why aren't they called English Bookstore then one wonders.

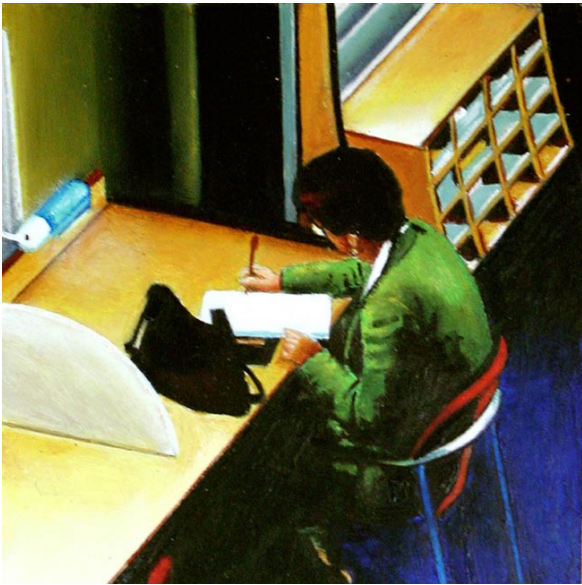


American Bookstore, acrylics on masonite, 8.7 x 9.9" or 22 x 25,2 cm, 2008

The Couple

I think bookstores are one of my favourite subjects to paint because of the atmosphere. Knowledge is everywhere, but first and foremost reading is just a fun experience.

Recently I saw this couple flipping pages of the books they picked up. And although they were temporarily in another world, it was obvious they belonged together. The painting is one of the last paintings I made in my old studio.



Notes, acrylics on masonite, 6 x 6" or 15 x 15 cm, 2008

The Art Books

The great thing about making daily paintings is not only that it makes one a better painter, but one can try and experiment too. At times a small painting just stares back at you and says: 'Please make a larger sized version of me!' Well, one cannot argue with that.

The Art Books is just one of those paintings and I made it exclusively for my open studio in 2008. On the painting you see a man in a bookstore picking up some books about art. You can see Dali with his strange mustache looking quite fierce back at us.

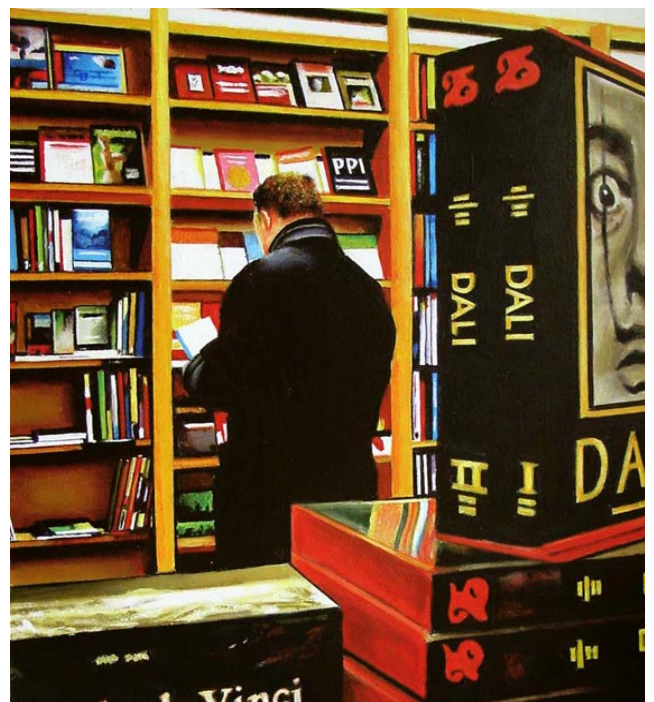
The Art Books, acrylics on masonite, 13.8 x 12" or 35 x 30,6 cm, 2008, sold

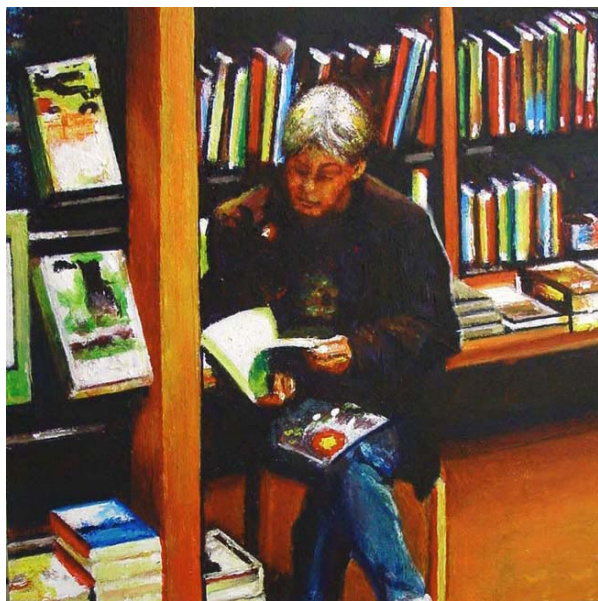


The Couple, acrylics on masonite, 15.6 x 14.3" or 39,5 x 36,4 cm, 2008., sold

Notes

The woman on my painting isn't reading, but she is sitting in the public library of my hometown. She's hard at work, studying and taking notes!





Literature acrylics on masonite, 6 x 6" or 15 x 15 cm, 2008

The Bookstore

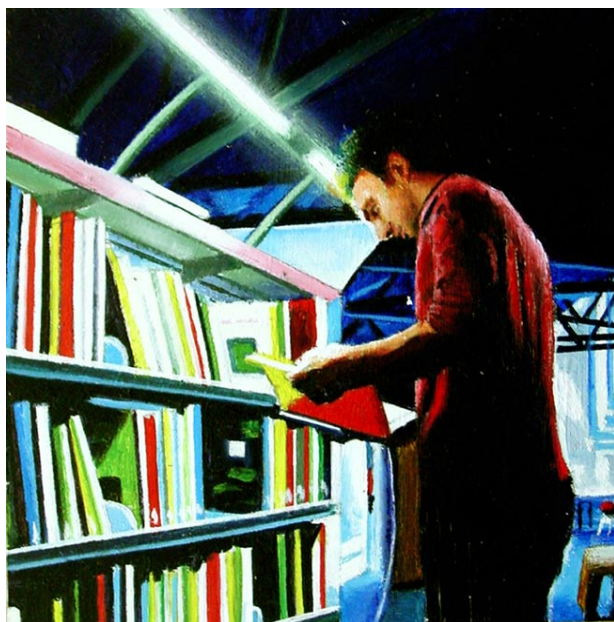
I always find bookstores very interesting to paint and this scene from a local bookstore was no different. You see a lady squatting down to pick up some books.

Literature

Readers always look so peaceful and at the same time I feel it's really meaningful in some way. Like painting I cannot get enough of it. This time I spotted this lady sitting down for some good reading in one of the local bookstores.



The Bookstore, acrylics on masonite, 13.8 x 12" or 35 x 30,6 cm, 2008



The Books

I especially painted The Books for my one man show at Galerie van den Berg in my hometown Leeuwarden.

The gallery is located in the Beurs, a passage to our public library. On the painting you see a man reading in this library.

The Books, acrylics on masonite, 6 x 6" or 15 x 15 cm, 2008

The Booksale

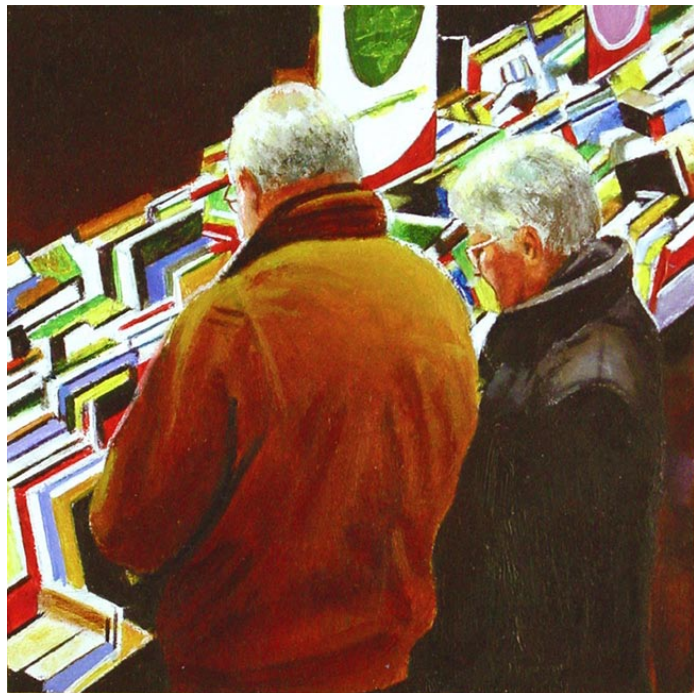
In a local bookstore I saw this elderly couple flipping through the books for sale. I don't know if they found any, but I know I did, although I cannot recall which one. It was quite a challenge to paint all those books, but it was great fun.

Contact

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kind regards, Gerard Boersma

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The Booksale, acrylics on masonite, 6 x 6" or 15 x 15 cm, 2008