

eclectica  
contemporary

**Alice Toich**

*The relationship  
between a  
female painter  
and her models*

Opening  
06.08.2020

Alice Toich

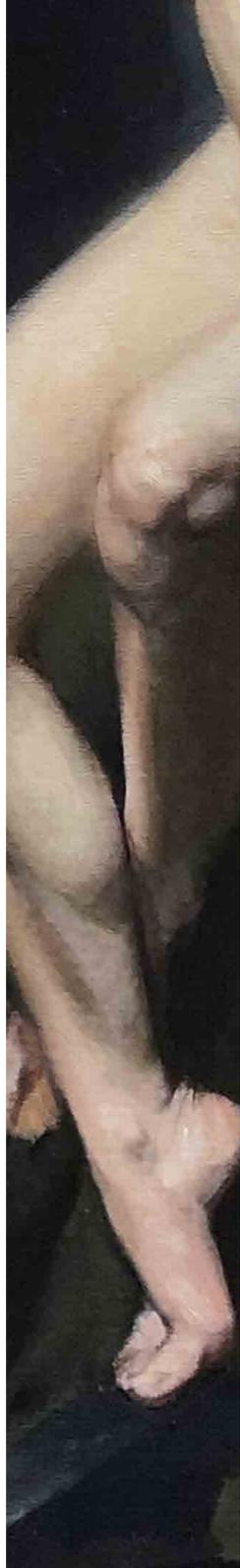
# a female

I have been reflecting on the very personal relationship I have had with womxn over the past year in my art education journey: namely my fellow painters and my female models. Most of whom were artists themselves. I completed 7 week-long figure studies from life with Sylvia and Frederica as models. They are also artists, a visual artists and dancer respectively. I felt this had a HUGE impact on what they were able to channel into our sessions - both being comfortable with the idea of their bodies, and approaching the model sessions as powerful pieces of performance. The idea of the female body in constant performance is a rich and multi-layered discussion, which I often internally explore while painting and through discussions. I am a big believer in the idea of empathising with the person you are aiming to capture in paint - be it a portrait sitter or figure model. Being female-identifying myself, it was much easier to empathise and therefore relate into paint, the female models I worked with.

Overcoming what one might expect are the mental and emotional barriers to stand nude in front of a class full of male and female strangers for weeks on end, are really only the beginnings to the challenges that live modelling entails. I discovered over time that it took mental strength

and endurance. Often the older models (some very old) were the most reliable - despite having more ailing bodies, their mental endurance and strength was astounding. It is an incredibly intensive act to model for an artist - and often models sustain physical injuries from standing for so many hours on one weighted side. Silvia did so, and despite being young and strong had to break from modelling after 2 years.

This model-artist relationship is very unique and something I could only experience in Italy, where this community has such a deep history and context for live modelling. I was afraid moving back to SA that I would struggle to find this sort of model culture available. But I have decided it also relies on more people seeing it as a respectful and dignified way to aid artists and be involved in the art world - not to mention make an income. Historically, female painters, if they were allowed into private ateliers, were only able to learn from and draw the female model - as not to be scandalised by the presence of the male nude. Instead of seeing this as a draw-back I would like to celebrate this historic nugget of female painters and artists working together with female models as a special sort of sisterhood. I see modelling as a very important and respectful profession that should be more openly celebrated and I am eternally grateful to the models that have stood for me and others.

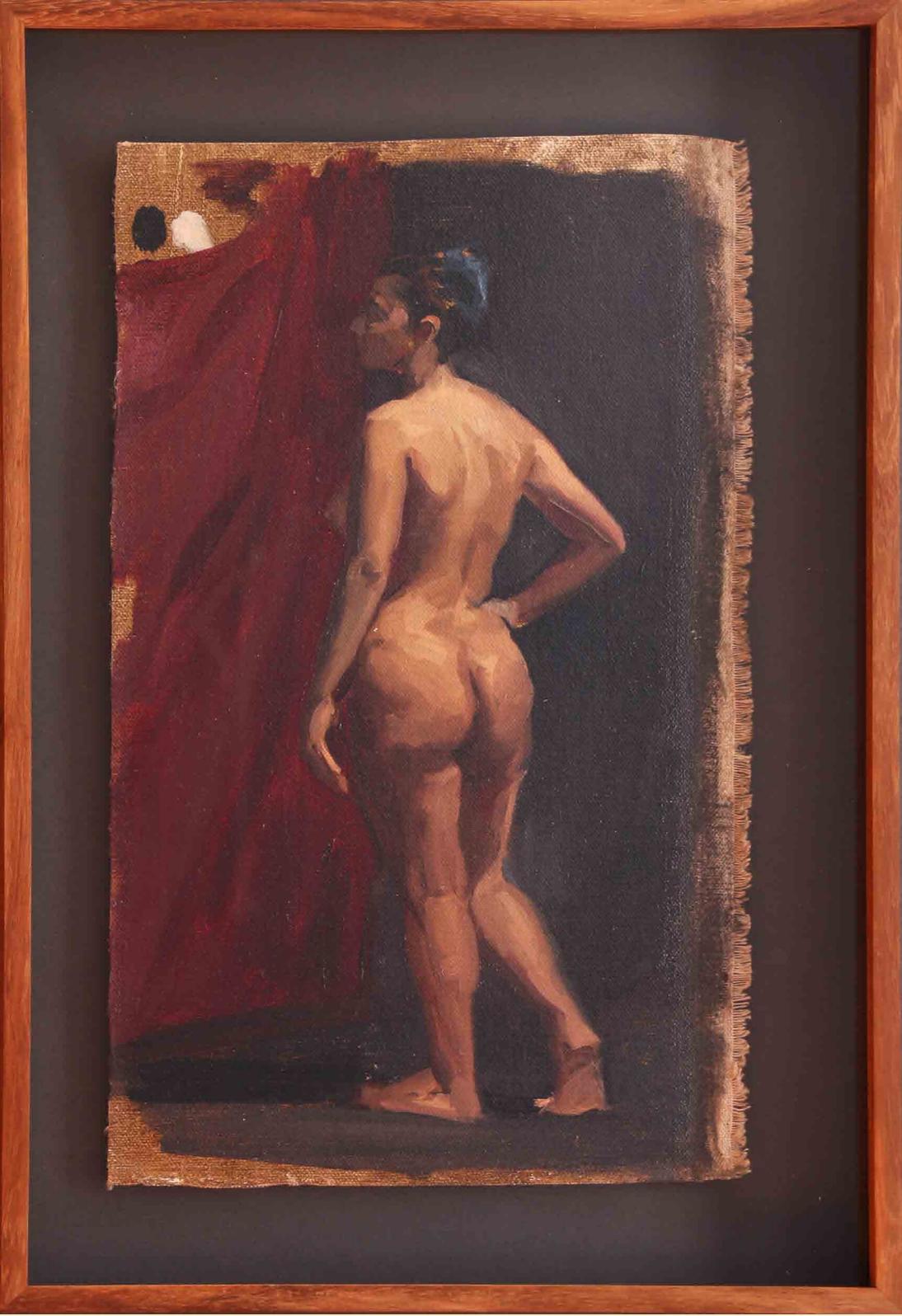


# Alice Toich

Alice Toich holds a BA degree in Media and a post-graduate diploma in Painting from the Michaelis School of Fine Art. In 2013 she was accepted to attend an intensive summer workshop at Studio Escalier in Aregnton, France, under the tuition of Michelle Tully and Timothy Stotz. In 2019, she completed three years of intensive training at the Florence Academy of Art. In her work, she comments on contemporary social phenomena through the use of contemporary realism in painting and drawing.



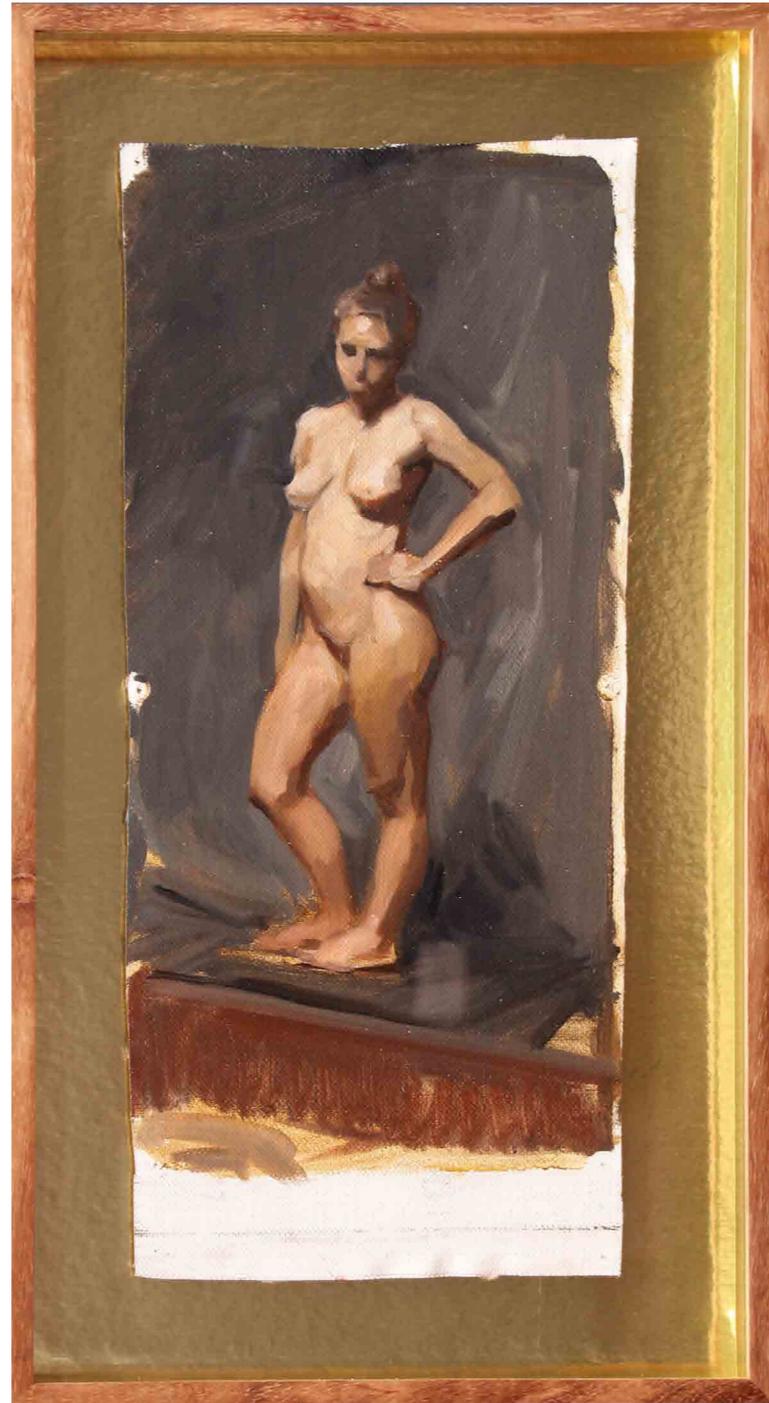
*Frederica*  
2019  
Oil on belgian linen  
80 x 100 cm



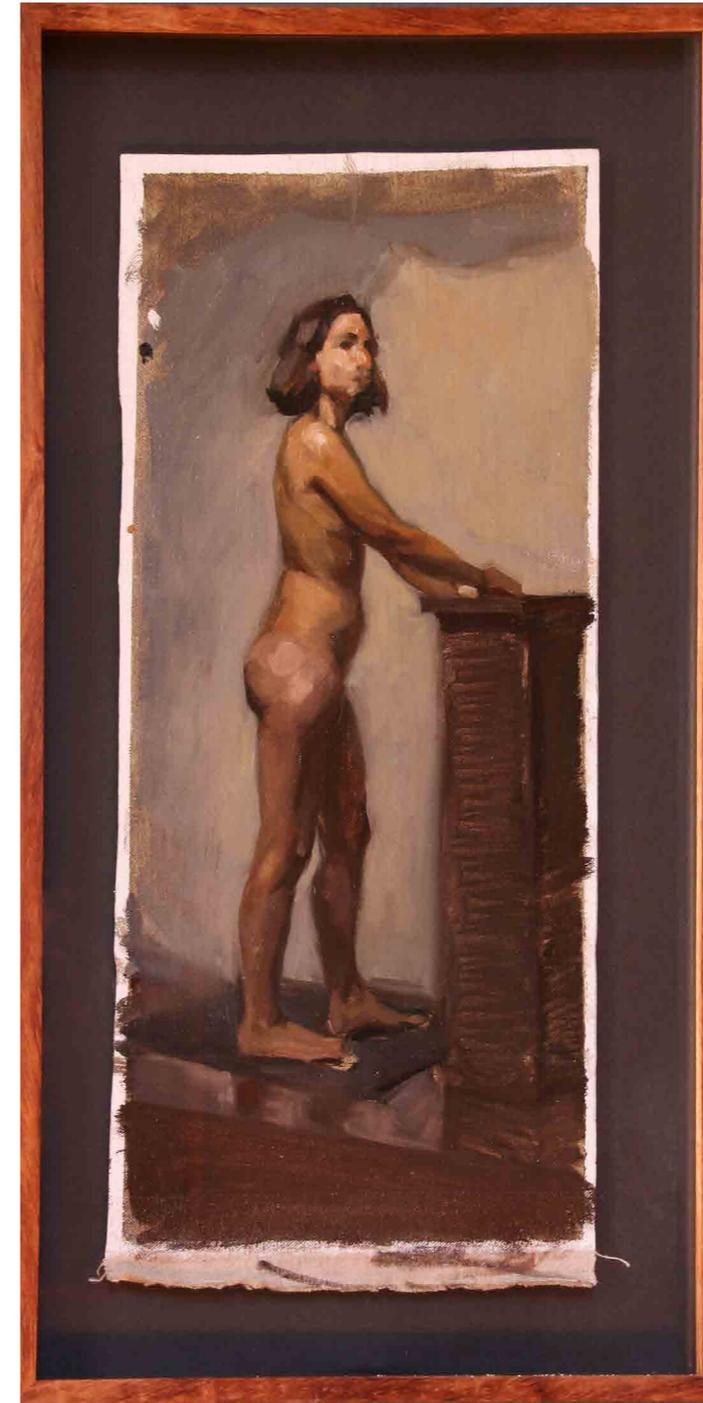
*Figure study in Maroon I*  
2019  
Master Quality Oil on Belgian Linen  
23 x 38.5 cm

*Maya*  
2019  
Oil on belgian linen  
80 x 110 cm





*Figure study (in Gold)*  
2019  
Master Quality Oil on  
Belgian Linen  
18 x 42 cm



*Figure study in Maroon II*  
2019  
Master Quality Oil  
on Belgian Linen  
21 x 44.5 cm



*Sylvia*  
2019  
Oil on Belgian Linen  
50 x 100 cm

