

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 25 works on show
Dec 15 thru Jan 15, 2006
Ann Long Fine Art
177 King Street
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 577-0447

● DESTINATION CHARLESTON, SC

BEN LONG

Long presents his classical realist figure paintings in extensive North Carolina show.



North Carolina figurative painter Ben Long will bring his classical realist paintings to the Ann Long Gallery this December for a new exhibition of over twenty-five drawings and paintings.

While Long handles a variety of mediums of painting—including extensive work in frescoes—this new show will be predominantly figurative works as well as sketches and studies for several large-scale murals he has just completed.

“To work from life is an ever learning process—a staircase where the incline becomes steeper the further one reaches,” says Long. “Yet, each platform is also deeper, more dangerous and more wondrous.”

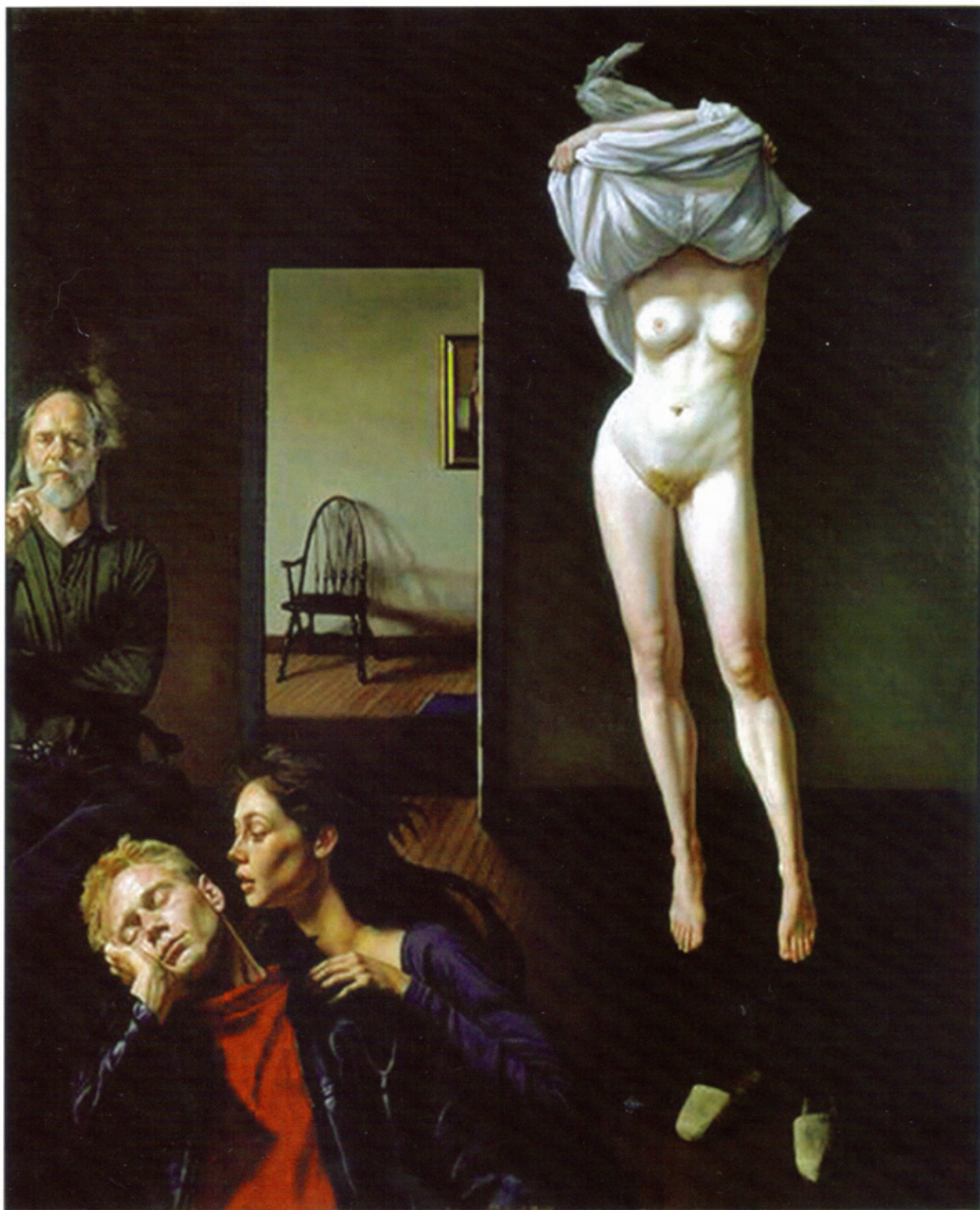
Though Long travels frequently to Paris and Florence during the year, he finds most of his models in his hometown of Asheville, North Carolina. Long feels that this town offers a wide range of subject matter and types of people, all with a unique look and feel that comes across on the canvases.

“I always find good models here at home,” says Long. It’s really a thriving moveable feast, here, full of interesting people. Asheville really has a wide swath of humanity, from old southern families to college students. It’s a very tolerant society and people are very accommodating.”

Long has been interested in painting his entire life. He is the

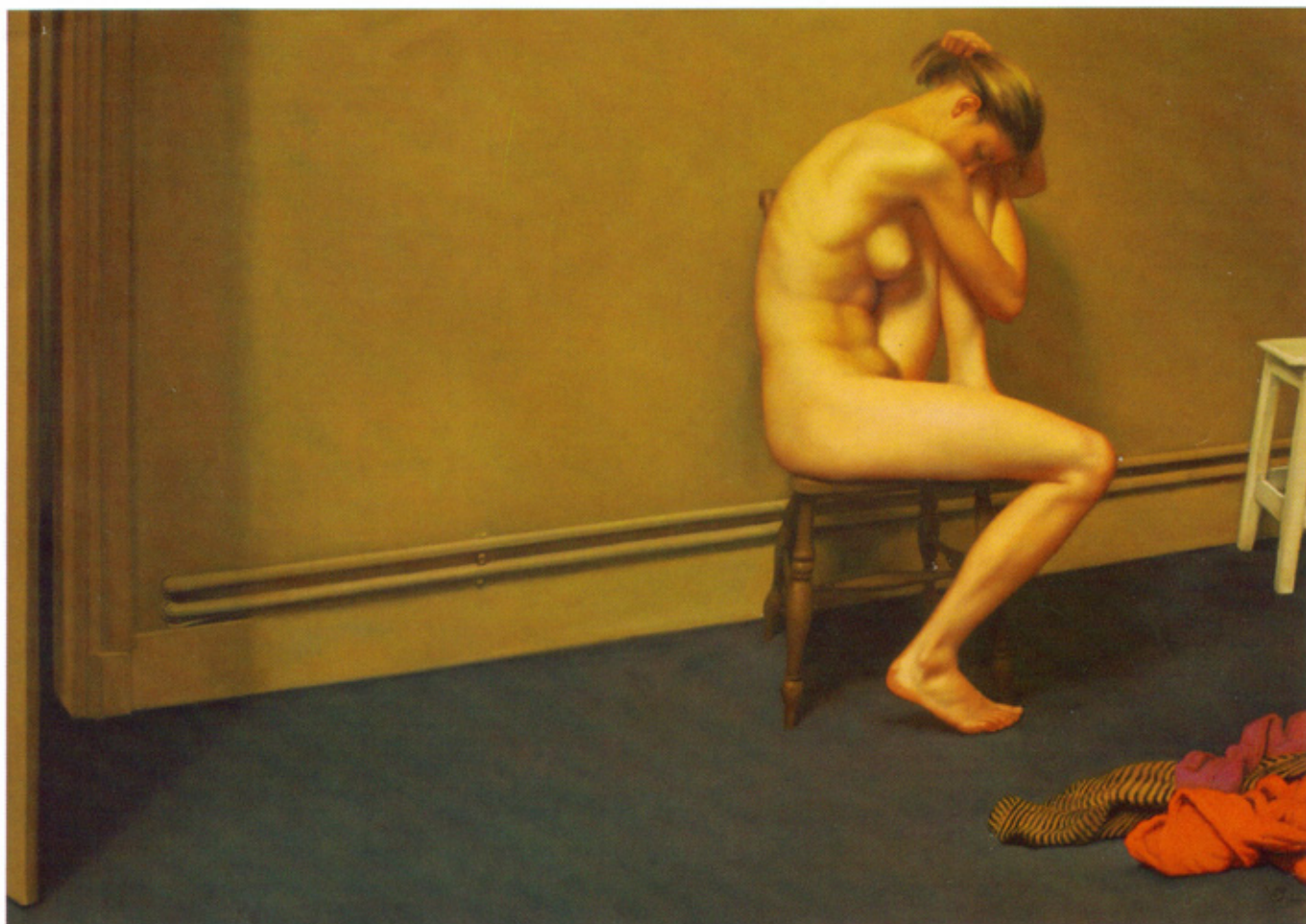
RIGHT: WHISPERS, OIL ON CANVAS

LEFT: KATIE WITH HAT, OIL ON CANVAS



Career Turning Point ?

“I don’t think I’ve reached it yet, but I’m trying like crazy to reach that. Now, I get jealous of the time I have to give up instead of doing my art. I don’t want it to be taken away from me.”



QUIET AFTERNOON, OIL ON CANVAS

The Gallery Says . . .

“The exquisite and confident draughtsmanship in Ben Long’s paintings is undeniably the draw for collectors to his work. The collector’s eye is trained on old master craftsmanship and can therefore recognize Ben’s gift—artwork echoing the excellence of the classics.”

—Ann Long

grandson of famous artist McKendree Long and grew up amidst many artists and writers. After attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—where he studied creative writing—he traveled to New York and studied with Robert Beverly Hale and Frank Mason at the Art Students League.

“I’ve always been interested in art, even from the beginning,” says Long. “I grew up with paintings all around me and was raised on an appreciation of artists like Rubens, Velazquez and Titian. So it’s hard to shake. And like most small Southern towns, the one where I grew up was sleepy enough that it takes time before you make contact with the outside world.

So, those were my early influences.”

After college, Long spent fifteen years in Florence where he apprenticed under the Italian master painter Pietro Annigoni. Championed by such art historians as Bernard Berenson, Annigoni is Italy’s most famous 20th century figure painter and proved to be a tremendous influence on Long’s career.

“When I got there I found that he was no longer painting in oil and teaching but was working in fresco,” says Long. “He hadn’t taught for about seven years, but I convinced him to take me on and I ended up working as his apprentice for about eight years.”

Long also learned the art of fresco

painting while with Annigoni and has completed almost 15 since returning to North Carolina in 1979. Despite his skills in this medium, though, figurative painting will always be his first love.

Price Range Indicator

This at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist’s work.

	1999	2005
Small	\$3,000-\$10,000	\$4,000-\$13,500
Medium	\$12,000-\$25,000	\$16,000-\$22,000
Large	\$20,000-\$100,000	\$25,000-\$150,000