



OCEAN WOMAN, 20 X 24, 2006

GARY SAYS: What do we expect from a portrait? A true likeness? A bit of psychological insight? Both can make a portrait work, of course. But there are all sorts of portraits. In this enigmatic painting, the likeness is no doubt true-to-life, but the figure may also serve as a vehicle for the mood of the artist, rather more than the sitter, around the time he was working on the picture.

Aufiery, a Jupiter artist, probably set out to create a bit of mystery. Why is the woman wearing clothes on what is presumably a beach? The picture is called Ocean Woman, after all. And why does the figure have such an anguished, out-of-it expression on what seems to be a beautiful day, with deep blue sky and fluffy clouds tinged with pink?

Those questions aside, the painting stands-out for its expressive use of thickish paint, which, as much as the subject, is what this forceful picture is all about. The work is part of a group show devoted to the figure that features painting, photography and collage by nine national artists.