

BARBARA DROBOT

TEACHER ARTIST

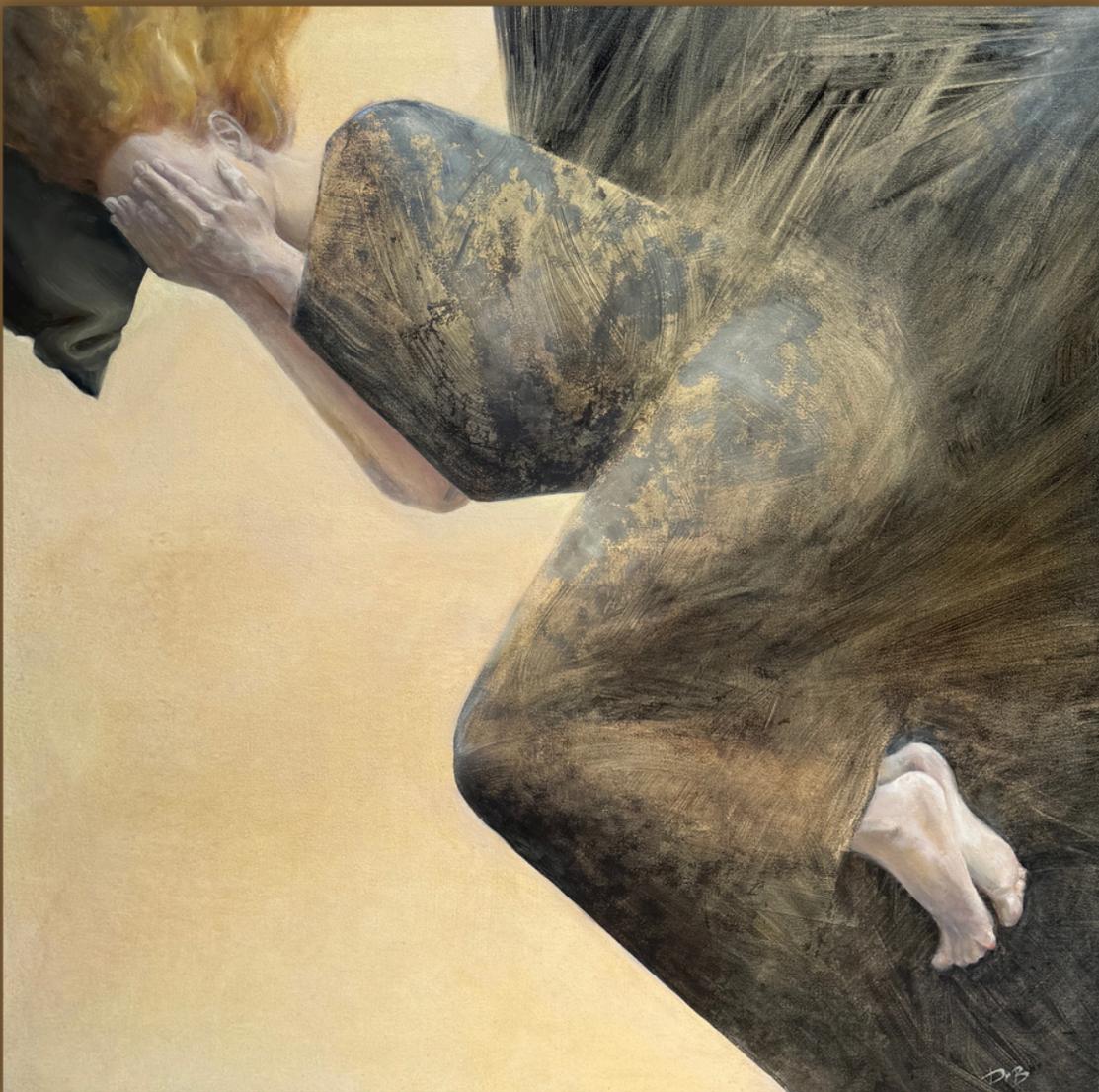
Art educator & Visual Artist | Researcher in Drawing Pedagogy | Founder of Art Teacher Club

SOCIAL MEDIA

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MEDIA/TECHNIQUE

Oil on canvas



*"The Treshold" Series, Oil on Canvas,
by Barbara Drobot*

ARTIST STATEMENT & CREATIVE PROCESS



The Threshold is a series created during a period of prolonged internal and external transition. It reflects moments when the body no longer keeps pace with the demands of the external world. While the conscious mind attempts to adapt to imposed expectations, the body retains the truth of fatigue, tension, and emotional misalignment.

Rather than portraying specific individuals, I work with the human figure as a container of lived experience. I am drawn to moments of suspension: when movement pauses, emotion crystallizes in the body, and silence emerges. Repeated motifs such as feet, folded bodies, and thresholds of light serve as metaphors for vulnerability, endurance, and the fragile boundary between collapse and continuation.

The greatest challenge in creating this series was working through emotional and physical exhaustion without forcing resolution. At several stages, the paintings resisted completion. Forms felt unstable, gestures incomplete, and any attempt to "polish" the image felt dishonest. I had to slow down my process and allow uncertainty to remain visible rather than corrected.

What helped me move forward was accepting the work as an inquiry. I returned to observation – listening to the body, adjusting gestures incrementally, and allowing repetition and restraint to guide decision-making. Progress emerged through sustained attention and quiet persistence.

This process mirrors how I understand artistic practice as an ongoing negotiation between intention, resistance, and care. The paintings do not offer closure; instead, they mark a passage – standing at the edge of light, not yet recovered, but ready to continue.

“WHAT CHALLENGE(S) DID YOU FACE WHILE CREATING THIS PIECE, AND HOW DID YOU WORK THROUGH THEM?”

One of the main challenges I faced while creating this piece was letting go of the expectation that an experienced artist should “see” a finished image clearly in advance. Even after years of practice, there is rarely a moment when the full picture appears ready in the mind and is simply executed on canvas.

Instead, the work required a long process of searching: making multiple sketches, revisiting gestures, and allowing the idea to emerge gradually rather than forcing it. At times, this was frustrating, as it challenged the assumption that professional experience brings immediate clarity.

What helped me work through this challenge was a shift in mindset – moving away from waiting for inspiration or a sudden sense of certainty. I began treating the process as a series of questions rather than answers. By asking myself what the work needed at each stage and responding through observation and experimentation, the painting slowly took shape.

This realization – that artistic practice is built through inquiry rather than waiting for a “right moment” – allowed me to stay engaged with the process and ultimately move closer to the final image.

