

STEPHANIE SERPICK

My work has continually been about constructing imagined environments that delve into the dark inner reaches of the mind, conveying a sense of romantic melancholy and isolation. Through specific color choices and deliberate composition, I create spaces that point to the gothic and eerie—the darker sides of personality—while still calling to mind the contemporary nature of technology. Whether icy, lifeless subjects drawn from 17th-century genre painting or flat, morphing and dripping patterns, the resulting images offer a glimpse of decay while also retaining a sense of hazy lightness. Through my paintings, I aim to create or inspire a mood, a feeling, of memory or place, rather than construct a specific narrative.

My process does not rely on planning or sketches, so choices are made intuitively, with only a general mental image of the mood or sense of place. This allows for a looser progression, and a style of working that involves building up layers, concealing and revealing elements throughout. While contradictory, I strive for a resolution that feels both leaden and still light and airy. Paintings that can be funereal, and still otherworldly. I am inspired by the Victorian era, specifically the austerity, severity and melancholy reminiscent of this time, as well as pattern and decoration from this period, among others. In addition, I am drawn to the wonder and terror inspired by "the unknown", and the mystery contained in this idea.