

Roberto Custodio

Goddess Lakshmi: The Divine Beauty

Goddess Lakshmi, the divine Goddess of wealth, prosperity, and the embodiment of beauty, is one of the most loved and revered of deities in the Hindu pantheon. She is considered one of the Mother Goddesses, and is well known in her eight forms, which itself is called 'Asta Lakshmi'.

Brazilian artist Roberto Custodio, with this body of works based on the Asta Lakshmi forms, has created a series of masterpieces, showcasing his impeccable and supreme technique of collage, allied with an astonishing imaginative vision. Custodio's art is the art of collage and his source material, magazine photographic printed matter. To which he adds subtle watercolor and ink details. He has a very particular way with the art of the 'found image' and what he elects to say with it and we are constantly delighted by his meticulous technique of cutting and repositioning, recovering the image and letting it tell a different narrative, playing with our preconceptions and perceptions, forcing change between signifier and signified.

One of the ways in which the past great masters of art achieve their fame and renown is due to their ability to depict the familiar with an added level of imagination and mastery. We remember and revere them for their individual versions of images and tales we feel we know, and love. In this way, a particular Madonna and Infant, for example, by one of the masters of the past, stands out from the myriad versions by many other artists.

Such is the art of Roberto Custodio, that his expressions of some familiar, some not so familiar images, stand out as uniquely his creations. His obsessive attention to detail leaves the viewer in awe of his imagination and magical sleight of hand, to the extent that one is constantly surprised and enchanted.

This once in a lifetime group of works depicting Goddess Lakshmi displays a bravura touch and a continuing maturity in execution and vision. As always, Custodio leaves us wanting to see more, willing to be swept away by his magical and magisterial love of Beauty and Art.

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