

RUSSO ▲ LEE GALLERY

Artist Statement 2025

“Stills”

I've always loved “movie stills”, the description itself, an oxymoron. They are still images, separate from the action, used to promote the moving picture. This series of paintings started with “Tribute to Renoir”, the second time in 10 years I've painted my version of a black and white “still” from Jean Renoir's 1935 film “Toni”. In both paintings, I've made, and slightly altered, a “still” from a “still”. In both cases I was drawn to the slant of a substantial banquet table.

My paintings are almost always figurative, but “stop-action” figurative, the action reduced to one moment. In one way or another, all of these paintings are distilled from one small part of a larger story.

-Fay Jones