

Emma Hefty

## Beginning & End



*Moon split in two (2012)*

The boundary of the material and the immaterial worlds, and the space that exists *between* them, has long fascinated me. In my work I try to capture a moment in time and space – the moment of death – as a way of exploring the relationship between the physical and the spiritual worlds. The abstraction of the body becomes the framework for a dialog about the duality of existence. My work is a blend of the purely intellectual with the emotive, a sort of visual poetry, fluid and exploratory which reflects my own deep introspection.

I fuse the traditional with the modern, the figurative with abstraction. Using *écorché* sketches as a starting point, muscular structure is abstracted into strands representing the threads – or cords – which link the physical and spiritual worlds. I paint using traditional methods; the variable viscosity of the medium allows for fluidity and texture, permitting me a feeling of connection with the process. Emotional and physical depth is created by the layering of translucent color, with cooler tones floating above warmer ones. Space is an important element, with form existing in seeming emptiness, representing the relationship between the physical and the spiritual.

Because spiritual constructions are personal to the individual my work is deliberately ambiguous so the viewer can interpret it using their own eyes and experience. In *Deep Self Quiet* (2011) a classically posed female nude is abstracted and infused with symbolic elements like water and the inner eye. Taken from a photographic source, the lack of relationship between artist and model allowed for a complete abstraction of the body. This voiding of individuality represents the purely organic nature of physical existence. *Moon split in two* (2012) starkly explores the issues duality – and the fusion between two halves. The physical and the spiritual are represented by a space divided into dark and light, with form – a third space where these opposing forces merge and combine – straddling the two.



*Deep self-quiet (2011)*