

## **Fran Forman's Series: To Insure Domestic Tranquility**

The first line of the United States Preamble to the Constitution assures us of an environment free of unrest, discord, apprehension, and strife. Recent events in our country threaten not only the Constitution itself but also the structures that present the illusion of safety and permanence.

Despite guarantees of safety in our homes and public places, our lives are too often filled with anxiety, isolation, transience, melancholy, and discord, illuminating a world unsettled and unmoored. Safe refuge is no longer guaranteed.

This series presents the paradox and tension between the elegant and solid structures upon which our country was founded, and their illusion of tranquility.

In the creation of these works my primary influences are: the paradoxical and dreamy narratives of Magic Realism; contemporary cinematography and those 'in-between' moments; and the visually stunning art of 17th-century Dutch Masters. In their small paintings, the placement of the figure within the interior space and the dramatic use of chiaroscuro, color, perspective and harmony serve to illuminate the harmonious, emotional lives of their subjects.

While adhering to the standards of these earlier masters' composition and design, my tableaux suggest the discord and heartbreak threatening our elegant and solid traditions. My contemporary scenes harken to these earlier masters, yet are created with modern tools that composite traditional photography and imagined realities.