

A HISTORY *of* WESTERN



ART

From Prehistory to the 20th Century

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Above: Grande Catalina (2005) is one of a number of Hyperrealist sculptures of female swimmers made from painted resin by Carole Feuerman.

Hyperrealism

There is Realism, and then there is Hyperrealism—realism that is so much like real life that a painting looks like a photograph and a sculpture looks like a real person. The effect can be unsettling. The American painter Chuck Close (born 1940) is the master of the outsized Hyperrealistic portrait, with every detail painted with photographic precision, down to the last eyelash. This kind of precision-imitation can be even more disturbing in three dimensions. The Australian sculptor Ron Mueck (born 1958), who trained as a model-maker and puppeteer for film, creates seemingly real replicas (in fiberglass, silicone, and resin) of human beings in all their imperfections, but at the wrong scale—either much larger or much smaller. A number of American sculptors have also become well known for their Hyperrealist work, including Duane Hanson (1925–96), who made casts directly from his living models, and Carole Feuerman (born 1945).