

“Shopping in Savannah”, oil

Lois Shipley

My painting “Shopping in Savannah” inspired me to revisit “The Prophet”, and this verse “Speak to me of Buying and Selling” speaks to my painting. – Lois Shipley

“Speak to me of Buying and Selling”

And a merchant said, Speak to us of Buying and Selling.

And he answered and said:

To you the earth yields her fruit, and you shall not want if you but know how to fill your hands.

It is in exchanging the gifts of the earth that you shall find abundance and be satisfied.

Yet unless the exchange be in love and kindly justice, it will but lead some to greed and others to hunger.

When in the market place you toilers of the sea and fields and vineyards meet the weavers and the potters and the gatherers of spices, -

Invoke then the master spirit of the earth, to come into your midst and sanctify the scales and the reckoning that weighs value against value.

And suffer not the barren-handed to take part in your transactions, who would sell their words for your labour.

-The Books of Kahlil Gibran