

Peregrine Honig

Paolo Porelli's characters are the cast in the space between dreaming and reading. His figures are animated by a projected narrative rich with undocumented history and the political leanings of a government that never existed. Pair Shel Silverstein's exquisite couplets of love and loss with *Ul De Rico's* rainbow goblins and you will see these figures standing still before you. Porelli's statues are dimensional jam-stained sketches, dog-eared poems and sun-bleached portraits. Some have split open, Seuss-like, their vivid juices exposed while others shy completely away from color and nod towards Santería, bearing bones and snakes and other ceremonial layers. Porelli's recent pieces are doll-sized but remember dolls come in all sizes and are not always for children. If they are action figures, their actions are multifaceted, timeless and intentional. These beings are as much an audience as they are made to be seen and they address space with an indignant playfulness rarely encountered in contemporary art. The formal sense of intention sustains an improvised energy without compromise. These are saints and soldiers, martyrs and effigies. Each piece is an excellent short story but you should read the whole book and watch the movie with friends.