



## Mirame (Look at Me)

Jose Benitez

50 x 70 cm, oil on canvas

A young girl is looking at us through a metallic fence. She has her eyes wide open. She is looking at us through a barrier through which her vision can penetrate but not her physical body. Her spirit is with us, she is looking at us, seeing us. She is understanding us. We can understand her, how lonesome she is, how captive she is, but neither she nor we can move. We do not need to talk, we can understand each other. Her look is the key to our hearts and to our souls in this mutual understanding.

Jose Benitez is a Spanish artist educated internationally and living now in London. His artwork has been shown in many exhibitions in Europe, and especially in Switzerland. He claims to be autodidactic, finding different ways of expression. His artwork has been the subject of several painting awards.

This artwork is in black and white and corresponds to the last one chosen from his selection.

Description by Jorge L. Alió

The "Miradas" competition was created by Jorge Alió, Journal of Refractive Surgery Editorial Board Member, and his wife, Maria Lopez, in 1998 with the intention of using artistic sensibility to bring society's attention to the phenomenon of sight, vision, and blindness. "Miradas," which means glances, is a contest in which artists from Spain and several Latin American countries submit paintings dealing with the topic of sight and the prevention of blindness. Each cover of the Journal of Refractive Surgery features paintings that were submitted to this competition. "Miradas" is sponsored by Schwind Eye-Tech-Solutions. For more information, contact [www.fundacionalio.com](http://www.fundacionalio.com)

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