



**La niña con los ojos velados
(The girl with her eyes covered)**

Rafael Bestard-Mas
65 x 50 cm, oil on canvas

This painting shows a girl in school uniform with her eyes covered. The background is gray and makes the girl seem as if she is floating in an unpleasant environment. The perception of vision is limited, which in turn limits her education. In addition, the girl might not desire to see. Either she rejects vision or her vision is limited. In either case, this influences her mood and her quality of life. Has she closed her vision from an unpleasant environment or has somebody led her to this situation? Does she want to see or not? The question and the sadness of this situation is floating in this realistic environment.

Rafael Bestard-Mas is a consolidated artist who has developed a special talent for portraits. He has been the subject of a number of national and international awards, his artwork is in many Spanish private and public collections, and he has been educated in the Fine Art School of Barcelona.

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

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