

“EXPLORING PORTRAITURE”

Group show

28th June – 23rd September 2018

NM is glad to present the exhibition “Exploring portraiture”, a group show taking the visitor to experience five different approaches to portrait genre, moving from 17th Century painting through computer painting, contemporary photography and mixed media intervention on old masters.

The show will include important works by the School of Vouet, Julian Opie, Philippe Pasqua, Matteo Basilé and Davide D’Elia.

Julian Opie is one of Britain’s foremost contemporary artist and is known for his unique style and technique, translating traditional portrait into computer painting on canvas. In 2008 he executed a unique series of four female portraits for the important retrospective exhibition at MAK museum in Wien. These portraits were inspired by and conceived to be in dialogue with works by great Dutch and British masters such as Jacob Huysman, Cornelis Van Der Voort, George Romney, Cornelius Jonson Van Ceulen, Sir Peter Lely, Sir Joshua Reynolds but more important with Thomas Gainsborough and Sir Anthony Van Dyck.

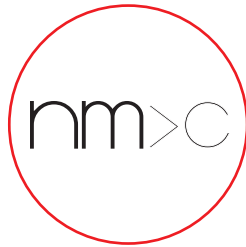
Part of Mak exhibition has been shown and entitled « Opie after Van Dyck » at the National Portrait Gallery in London last October.

“Exploring portraiture” shows one of those unique portraits: « Maria Teresa with red shawl”. The figure of Maria Teresa on the foreground, the folds of drapery, the red shawl around her wrists, the flower in her hand and the landscape on the background, they all recall the manner of the cited masters.

The painting seems to tell about the lady intimate conflict between purity and passion, the first symbolized by the white dress and pink rose and the second by the red shawl, leaning on her wrists. The landscape on the background is rough, cloudy and windy, the foliage maybe reflect the subject’s state of mind. Some could reckon of « Sacred and profane love » by the Titian, where two images of a noble woman are allegories of sacred and profane love, while the pose of hands and the background nature and clouds reminds of Gainsborough’s paintings

We find similar elements in the beautiful painting representing Saint George and attributed to the School of Vouet. The Saint is represented as a young knight, handsome and sensual, his dresses are sumptuous, a yellow shawl on his shoulders marks the composition while the light coming from the side gives a realistic and tridimensional effect to the the folds of drapery and the sleeve and the delicate incarnato of his face, recalling Caravagism.

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After these paintings, two portraits by Roman photographer Matteo Basilé represent two young ladies holding a flower, they are entitled « Magnifica flora ». The female figures emerge from a dark background while a light from a side falls on hers neck and shoulders. The artist appeal to 16th Century iconography but also to mannerism and Caravagism reinterpreting at his own style the portrait painting tradition through photography. The works inscribe themselves in the Basilé series : « Lumen et umbra », a two years trip where the artist plunged into the light and shade world and created a fantastic series of tales.

The conscience of time is the central theme of the artist Davide D'Elia, presenting on this occasion a group of works from « Anti-fouling » series. D'Elia intervenes on some old masters portraits with anti-fouling paint developing his favorite theme of « Tiepido –cool », the research of a meeting point between life and death, past and present, feminine and masculine, organic and inorganic, a point of balance and visual comfort.

The « Bolo » and « The brother of Bolo » are 19th Century portraits where the figure is almost disappearing under the intervention of the anti-fouling paint but still keeping a composition balance where past seems to be frozen by the artist's action.

To conclude the exhibition, there are three major paintings by the important French artist Philippe Pasqua. On display there is a rare work from the « Voudou » series that the artist executed when living in New York at the end of 90's. Then an important female nude from the very first series of female portraits executed in the typical pink tones from 2006.

More important, there is one of the few and very rare big size portraits from the blu series entitled « Bloc opératoires » (« Surgical blocks ») representing a 200 x 160 cm newborn baby.

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Cocktail vernissage Thursday the 12th of July 2018 at 6 pm

17, rue de la Turbie, 98000 - Principauté de Monaco

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