

Keitelman Gallery

MARCELLA S. NELSON “L'intime dévisagé”

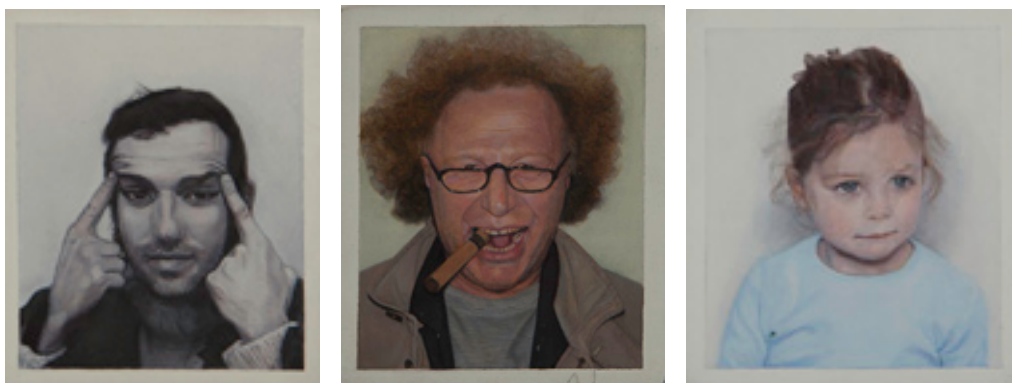
On this occasion, and also to mark the jubilee of TEFAF, a 'happening' will take place during the fair. A specially made photo booth will be placed in the gallery stand for visitors to take pictures of themselves and to commission their own portrait miniature (in the tradition of Van Eyck) from Marcella S. Nelson. A symbolic link between the past and the present.

Marcella Nelson' work features a unique approach, assuming a form of contemporary classicism. She makes miniature paintings identical in size to original passport photos (44x52mm). She draws upon those mechanical self-portraits, resulting from one's self presentation and conveying one's bare identity, so as to create new works, using the most traditional technique used through the history of painting, that is, oil on canvas.

After priming the canvas in the traditional way, Nelson meticulously and patiently applies the paint with very light strokes, with a marten brush normally used for watercolour painting and sometimes having only one bristle.

The artist takes up the photo prints, initially arranged in series of four and yet non reproducible, and reverses their values so that unique artworks can emerge.

She retains the typical relationship of the figure against a neutral background, the close-up of a face captured from an appropriate distance, to be found in classical portrait painting. Painted with the utmost precision, the marks of time, such as puffiness, spider veins, wrinkles, dark rings and sharp or dull eyes, are rendered faithfully, 'frozen' to convey the likeness, the sameness which portrait painting and photography have consistently been striving for.



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