

# JENNY SCOBEL

## Press Release

15.04.2010 - 29.05.2010

From April 15 until May 29, for the first time in Spain, Jenny Scobel (Ohio, USA) presents her latest work at Michel Soskine, Madrid. The exhibition gathers a dozen portraits painted with a technique specific to Scobel: graphite, wax and watercolours on wooden panels.



*Eyes Glass Grey*, 2009 Pencil Watercolour Wax on panel. 81.3 x 61 cm

Drawing is the basis of these works. Nevertheless, its *atmospheric* character, rather than a *linear* one, turns it into a *painterly* work. The graphite defining each feature evaporates due to a wax layer, generously applied all over the surface of the panel. This softens the linear nature of graphite drawing and merges it with the colour, giving an aerial nature to the work.

Scobel's paintings are rooted within the Flemish Primitives and the Cinquecento portrait tradition. She opts for the more complex and nuanced *three quarters* portrait, with a low perspective angle, reminiscent of a cinematographic angle.

The paintings in this exhibition are all portraits of women. A display of diverse features and *psyches*, marked by a profound individuality, each one protecting the mystery in which they are intimately absorbed. What they all share is this disturbing sense of introspection and the feeling that all we are aloud to see is not all there is...

Oblique eyes, tangent to the viewer... Their look escape us: it is projected into something *or someone* hidden, observing a complex World, invisible to us. Such a psychological tension comes from these *grown apart* portraits and the distance between them and us.



These are *only human* portraits, *flesh and blood* characters, but after a second reading, they gain some sort of iconic aspect: Whether movie stars or anonymous people, these personages are equally unattainable. They are lost in their thoughts, ranging from a dangerous *femme fatale* to the most fragile of women, from some sort of secular *Madonnas* to modern bold Amazons. Nuances that we can find sometimes within the same portrait ...

The pictorial space, although reduced to a notion, is a real *scenario* in the theatrical sense of the term. One of the recurring backgrounds in Scobel paintings are the plastered walls with prints of the 30's and 40's, as in *Glass Grey*, (2009) or allusions to art history- introducing this fascinating game of *painting within the painting*- like the fragment of a Mantegna art piece in the work *Tilt* (2009). The urban setting is also a familiar background, as in the work *Helicopters* (2009).

*Tilt*, 2008 / 2009 Pencil, wax and watercolour 121 x 86.4

Jenny Scobel lives and works in Harlem, New York. She has starred solo exhibitions in Europe and USA, including *Unsolved Mysteries* in Rockville Center, (New York) and *Holde Frauen Sagt: 15 zeitgenssische Kunstlerinnen und das Medium Zeichnung* in the Fridericianum Museum (Kasel).

The exhibition will run until May 29, 2010, in Michel Soskine Inc.

Calle Padilla, 38. D. 1 28006. Madrid.

From Tuesday to Saturday. 11.00 - 14.30 / 16.30 - 20.30

For further information contact the gallery. T. +34 91 431 06 03

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