

DELLASPOSA

FINE ART

IN PURSUIT OF THINGS PAST

Exhibition 10 April – 6 May, 2017

Private View Thursday 20 April 2017, 18:00 - 20:00

10 Shepherd Street, Mayfair, London, W1J 7JE



[London, April 2017] Dellasposa is proud to present a new exhibition of still-life paintings by the provocative contemporary artist, Darren Coffield, alongside portraits by the rising portrait painter, Isabella Watling.

In Pursuit of Things Past offers a Proustian meditation on time, memory, and the aesthetic impulse. The exhibition is open to the public from Monday 10th April to Saturday 6th May 2017 at 10 Shepherd Street, London, W1J 7JE.

Unveiling a new series of paintings by Darren Coffield, the artist uses as his motif still-life paintings after the 18th century French artist, Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin (1699-1779). Considered the master of still-life, Chardin's paintings were so influential to the French writer Marcel Proust that the novelist expounded upon the beauty of everyday objects as inspiring moments of revelation in his ekphrasis essay, 'Chardin and Rembrandt', written in 1895. The ordinary can be extraordinary, if only one is able pause and see it as

extraordinary. Here, the artist imbues the everyday world with new meaning through his unique observation of the world around him.

Darren Coffield draws parallels with Proust's rumination on time past and time present by examining how we see and perceive the world around us. Coffield's still-life compositions are painted and then reassembled as a jigsaw, subverting the viewer's expectations by piecing his still-life paintings together with its own constituent elements now distorted through the lens of memory and relational perspective. These encrypted images raise fundamental issues regarding the veracity of reality to appearance, consumption and corruption, knowledge and memory.

Coffield's early Proustian portraits are also featured in the exhibition. Here, one can see the artist's provocation with Old Master paintings. Taking the Bellini's *Madonna of the Meadow*, he obscures the subject's visage with pixelated abstraction, while disrupting our the iconographic status of the painting with an irreverent day-glow halo and every man walking his dog appears in the background. These early works see the artist's fascination with portraiture; capturing the vanity of figures now unknown in memorial. The unknown and forgotten identity of figures left hanging in the museum, like Velásquez's *Prince Baltasar Carlos in Silver* and *Lady with a Fan*, are now rendered and subsumed into the work of art itself.

Alongside Coffield's portraits are recent works by the young apprentice to Velásquez and Titian, Isabella Watling. Trained at the Charles H. Cecil studio in Florence – the oldest artist atelier in Europe, where da Vinci is known to visit – Watling practices the sight-size technique of painting. She continues to paint from life, following in the footsteps of the Old Masters, by considered observation of her subjects; a vision in unison with memory, which expresses the greater reality of light, colour, and form. Here, the visual language of art evolves from the past to the present through silence and slow time - exhibiting to us a vision more complete, more seizing, more probing than reality itself.

We look forward to welcoming you to the exhibition and invite you to enjoy the sight of these paintings, on view for a limited time, in the heart of Mayfair, London

- END -

Image 1.: Darren Coffield, *Dead Game III (After Chardin)*, 1997 © Darren Coffield, London

For images and further press information, please contact:

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About Dellasposa

Dellasposa is a unique gallery founded on the principle that art inspires and engages all. We specialise in curated exhibitions, commissions, art advisory services. Whether you are invested in the art scene or beginning your journey, we create exclusive relationships by connecting you with artists and the story of art. We offer independent, in-depth expertise to guide you through collecting art in today's international, and often complex art market. With scholarship at the heart of our work, we are guided by each individual collector to understand their own aesthetic interests and objectives. We curate satellite art exhibitions and events, presenting established and rising artists united by their conceptual rigour and ambitious, timeless works of art. Art is to be discovered, inspired, and appreciated. We bring the world of art to you.

Exhibition Title: 'In Pursuit of Things Past'

Exhibition Address: Dellasposa Fine Art, 10 Shepherd Street, Mayfair, London, W1J 7JE

In Collaboration with Parergon Café and Gallery

Dates and Opening Hours

Open to the Public: Monday 10 April – Saturday 6 May, 2017

Press Preview: Tuesday 18 April 2017, 18:00 - 20:00

Private View: Thursday 20 April, 18:00 – 21:00

Gallery Opening Hours

Monday – Friday: 10:00 – 18:00

Saturday – Sunday: 11:00 – 16:00 // Viewings by Appointment.

Exhibition Catalogue

In Pursuit of Things Past will be accompanied by a fully illustrated online catalogue, with a contributing essay by curator, Jessica McBride.

Social Media

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

Facebook: /dellasposafineart

Instagram: @dellasposa

Twitter: @dellasposa

#InPursuitofThingsPast and #ProustianPortraits

Admission and Tickets

Admission to the exhibition is free. To attend the private view event, please RSVP to rsvp@dellasposa.com

DARREN COFFIELD

Darren Coffield was born in London in 1969. He studied at Goldsmiths College, Camberwell School of Art and the Slade School of Art in London where he received his Bachelor of Fine Art in 1993. He has exhibited widely in the company of many leading artists including Damien Hirst, Howard Hodgkin, Patrick Caulfield and Gilbert and George at venues ranging from the Courtauld Institute, Somerset House to Voloshin Museum, Crimea. His work can be found in collections around the world.

In 2003 his controversial portrait of Ivan Massow, former chairman of the ICA in full fox hunting costume was exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London. Portraits of George Galloway and Molly Parkin (NPG, 2010) followed, and most recently a depiction of former Miners Union leader Arthur Scargill made entirely from coal dust. In the early nineties Coffield worked with Joshua Compston on the formation of Factual Nonsense - the centre of the emerging Young British Artists scene. A new book by Coffield about this period in British Art, *Factual Nonsense: The Art and death of Joshua Compston* is out now published by Troubador.

Critic David Sylvester, known for his championing of his close friends Alberto Giacometti, Francis Bacon and Lucien Freud, described in his *Guardian* obituary as 'one of the finest writers on art in the second half of the twentieth century,' described Darren Coffield as 'Another of those magicians who (probably without knowing) know how to imbue pieces of matter with light'.



Image II.: Darren Coffield, *Meadow of the Meadow (After Bellini)*, 1997, acrylic on silk, 84 x 99 cm © Darren Coffield

ISABELLA WATLING



Isabella Watling was born in London in 1990, and spent her formative years in the UK and Australia. From the age of 18 she trained at the Charles H Cecil studios in Florence where she returns periodically to teach portrait and figure painting. The objective of the formal training is to remove any technical deficiencies between the artist's honest perception of their subject and the finished picture.

After living in Italy for six years, she moved to London in 2015 to set up her own studio in Kensington, painting portrait commissions from life. Owing to her thorough training in the Venetian methods, her work is related to and inspired by artists like Velazquez, Van Dyck and Rembrandt.

Watling's principal focus for her portraits is to capture something of the character and life of the sitter. For her, each portrait is a concentrated response to her impression of the person she paints. In working from life in close collaboration with the sitter, the picture becomes a living artefact of her experiences of the model during the time spent in the studio.

In using the same methods and materials as the great portrait artists of history from all the way back to Titan in 17th century Venice, Watling hopes to give her work a force of integrity that comes through a feeling of timelessness.

Watling's portraits are regularly exhibited publicly, including the BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery in 2012 and 2014 respectively, where she has also lectured and held a portrait painting workshop. Isabella has undertaken a number of private and public commissions. Commissioned by Pembroke College Cambridge, she painted the world renowned clarinetist, Emma Johnson, and is currently working on a group portrait of the five lady judges of the Court of Appeal to hang in the Inner Temple. Most recently, Isabella Watling was named among the Top Portrait Painters of 2016 by the Royal Society of Portrait Painters in London. A love of beautiful naturalistic oil painting and its potential for reflecting something of the wonder of being an individual is for Isabella a great challenge and a life's endeavour.