

Aidan Meller

The Muse: Should men depict women?

24th March – 31st May

In the wake of the #Metoo campaign and the Weinstein scandal, issues of gender and sexuality are top of the agenda. Amidst cries of 'CENSORSHIP' that followed the removal of Waterhouse's *Hylas and the Nymphs*, the importance of visual art to the debate became shockingly clear.

Aidan Meller's new exhibition, *The Muse*, aims to tackle the issues raised by the scandal head on. Displaying depictions of women by some of the male masters of art history - including two technically supreme paintings by Waterhouse himself - *The Muse* is out to spark debate. With Camille Pissarro's depictions of peasant women that reflect his own humble 'labour' to Moore's early images of classical beauty, and Roger Hilton's violent abstractions of the female form, the exhibition invites a complex response.

Are these artists' depictions of women some of the best loved artworks of all time because sex sells, or because sexism sells? Or, can the female form be a powerful symbol for human ideals? If the question is whether men can depict women, then perhaps the right answer is to come and see the work for yourself.

KEY INFORMATION:

Exhibition: The Muse: Should men depict women?

Address: Aidan Meller, 13 Turl Street, Oxford, OX1 3DQ

Website: www.aidanmeller.com

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday, 10am - 6pm Sunday, 11am - 5pm

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The longest established art gallery and leading dealership in Oxford, over the past two decades Aidan Meller has sustained high acclaim for the calibre of work displayed. With a reputation for showing internationally acclaimed artists of the Western canon, the gallery also works closely with collectors to provide expert consultancy services.

Located on Turl Street in the heart of Oxford, the gallery's principal site provides a display area for exhibitions. Aidan Meller has developed over the past twenty years to represent significant estates and important artists including Camille Pissarro, Pablo Picasso, and Marc Chagall. Since its inception, the gallery has displayed an academically rigorous, ambitious programme of shows from the Bloomsbury Set to Impressionism, and the St Ives School. The gallery has hosted historically significant exhibitions including a substantial collection of Pre-Raphaelite School drawings discovered by Aidan Meller in 2013.

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact

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Should Men Depict Women

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