

DUTCH SEEN

Catalogue Essay

Rineke Dijkstra is the artistic angel guiding much of this generation of Dutch photography. She was the first to truly demonstrate the modernity to be found in a classical approach. Her singular, powerful portraits have an inexplicable hold over viewers. The tremendous conceptual strength of her portraits was seen right from the beginning, particularly in her documentation of Amerisa, a young Bosnian girl who has posed each year for a formal portrait by Dijkstra since Her Coney Island bathers anchor this show with quiet authority.

One of our photographers created his pictures without ever setting foot in N.Y. **Erwin Olaf**, the celebrated provocateur of the Dutch photographic scene, chose a conceptual approach, creating his pictures entirely in a studio in Amsterdam. He wanted to make portraits of African-Americans early in the 20th century. Inspired by the Hamptons Album of tk, he set out to recreate a scene in an upper middle class African-American home in tk. His beautifully rendered tableaux tell a story of Black history that is not well known.

Finally, we come to **Hendrik Kerstens**, the creator of the iconic image of our show, the stunning portrait of his daughter and lifelong muse, Paola. She is depicted as a noble Dutch woman of the 17th century. Her carriage is regal and her pose is timeless. And yet there is something surprising in her depiction. Is that a napkin from one of Kerstens' favorite New York restaurants? Is that a Yankees cap in the next portrait? Each of his historic portraits lives in the past and the present. He takes every bit of the DNA of Rembrandt that runs through all Dutch artists – how could it not – and laces up his modern sensibility with Rembrandt's to create something new. He keeps one eye on Dutch shores, while setting out fearlessly on new artistic adventures, as his ancestors did 400 years ago. +

Kathy Ryan Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi. +

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