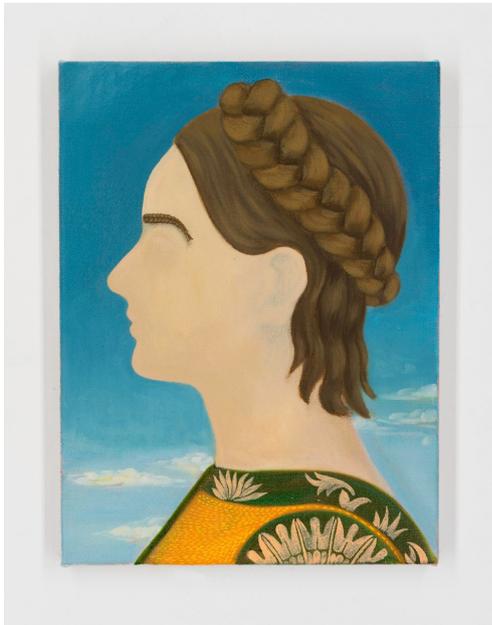


**ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION INVITES:
JOSEFINE REISCH: CELETOIDS
20 SEPTEMBER–28 OCTOBER**

Exhibition Preview

Thursday 20 September, 6–9pm



Profile #28, 2018. Oil on canvas. 30 x 40 cm. Courtesy the artist and Galerie Noah Klink

Reassembling historical moments and figures, Josefina Reisch's work engages in a feminist reading of the past, seducing the viewer with haunted textures of the already seen. Working through traditional mediums such as tromp l'oeil painting, portraiture and textile, she questions the value and validity of European cultural heritage. In the exhibition *Celetoids*, Reisch considers the motif of the profile, reflecting on how the depiction of female subjects create value, linking moments from across the centuries such as Renaissance portraiture and selfie culture.

The Renaissance is commonly associated with the birth of individualism. Today there are more portraits than ever. A social media profile image is a mode through which a self-portrait is crafted and circulated. And the selfie is a tool for asserting and placing a particular named identity, in contrast to the often anonymous young women we find in early Renaissance portraiture. Both kinds of picture strive for (self-)promotion and objectification; trajectories Reisch finds questionable.

Reisch's new paintings interweave self-portraiture with quotes from specific examples of Renaissance and 20th century painting. One reoccurring reference is the work by the Pollaiuolo brothers, Florentine artists and craftsmen of the 15th Century. The female subject appears in profile, a format Reisch feels emphasises the analytical over the psychological.

Reisch's choice of painting is a means to highlight contemporary conceptions of the self. It is a medium that challenges certainty and fixed meaning in its subtleties, yet on the other hand is perceived as the manifestation of the permanent picture, in contrast to the ephemeral character of the selfie.

All the paintings have the same blue sky background, a generic motif from Renaissance art and from contemporary studio photography. The faces move across this background in a manner which hints as the swipe of images across a screen. These new paintings might assert their fixed presence as objects, but in Reisch's handling they remain resolutely enigmatic and ungraspable.

Another reference are the portraits by Gluck from the 1930s, which were subversive in their assertive and stylish depiction of female androgyny and lesbian love. Gluck's most iconic painting, *Medallion* (1936), is the compositional basis for one of the paintings in the show. And a large floor-based sculpture in pink dental wax also relates to Gluck. The tiered pyramid shape is based on the patented geometric frames in which Gluck presented her paintings

Thinking through how the image of the female subject is constituted, Reisch also draws on the recent essays of Siri Hustvedt on hair. 'Much ado about hairdos' (2015) looks at how accessories participate in the performance of gender and how hair frames a person and their rituals of self-creation. Hair is an exterior layer of a person, something that protrudes beyond the skin as a 'dead' un-sensing material. Yet it has been and still is used by women to shape their identity and make political statements.

BIOGRAPHY

Josefine Reisch (b.1987, Berlin, Germany) lives and works in London. She graduated from Kunstakademie Düsseldorf in 2013 and completed an MFA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths in 2017. Recent solo and two-person shows include *Stampede*, Gallerie Noah Klink, Berlin (2018); *Plus Que Moi*, Kunsthaus NRW, Aachen; *Tender Constructions (Hong Kong Cappuccino)* with Sarah-Jane Hoffmann, Bruch und Dallas, Cologne and *Let the adventures begin...* with Nora Hansen, GOLDSMITHSGALLERY, London (all 2016). Her work has also been shown at Mothers & Daughters Bar at Beursschouwburg, Brussels; White Cubicle, London; Bob's Pogo Bar at KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; Volcano Extravaganza, Stromboli; Corner College, Zurich; Hans Arp Museum Rolandseck and Moderna Galleria Ljubljana for the 31st Biennial of Graphic Arts, amongst others.

Zabludowicz Collection Invites: Dedicated to solo presentations by UK-based artists without UK commercial gallery representation.)

NOTES FOR EDITORS

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabludowicz Collection is a philanthropic organisation including a growing collection of contemporary art and a programme of international exhibitions, events and artists' residencies. Founded in 1994, the Collection is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art, offering a variety of opportunities and support for artists and art organisations. All of its activities are privately funded and free for the public to access.

The collection contains over 3000 works of art by more than 600 artists, spanning 40 years of art production. Its focus is on emerging art from the late 20th century to the present day and it is in constant development. The Collection has been directed since 2006 by Elizabeth Neilson.

In 2007 the Collection opened its main exhibition space in London, in a 19th Century former Methodist Chapel, where it has worked with artists, curators and the collection to produce exhibitions and events examining contemporary art practice in a public forum. The Collection now also runs an international programme of exhibitions, events, residencies and commissions across four permanent venues in the UK, USA and Finland. The programme is directed by Maitreyi Maheshwari.

For more information, images or any other press enquiries please contact:

Francesca Meale at SUTTON

+44 (0)20 7183 3577

cesca@suttonpr.com

VISITOR INFORMATION

Admission: FREE

Thursday–Sunday, 12–6pm or by appointment

The **Café** serves tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes during gallery opening hours.

The **Library** and meeting room can be booked for meetings, research, and to view film and video works in the Collection.

The **Shop** sells limited edition artworks, 50% of the proceeds go directly to the artist.

shop.zabludowiczcollection.com

Address:

176 Prince of Wales Road, London NW5 3PT

+44 (0)207 428 8940

info@zabludowiczcollection.com

zabludowiczcollection.com

Transport (TFL stations):

Chalk Farm or Kentish Town West

Follow us:

[Twitter.com/Zabludowicz_Col](https://twitter.com/Zabludowicz_Col)

instagram.com/zabludowicz_collection

facebook.com/ZabludowiczCollection