

AMERICAN
art
COLLECTOR



*Now Showcasing Glass,
Ceramics & Wood*



SEXES

April 18 to May 15, Rehs Contemporary Galleries in New York will host an exhibition exploring gender in today's society. **BY JOHN O'HERN**

SEXES is the third in a series of annual exhibitions celebrating contemporary realism at Rehs Contemporary Galleries in New York. More than 30 professional and student artists will participate in the exhibition and have been asked "to explore the perceptions that surround one of the most debated topics in society today...Ideas that relate to gender stereotypes and sexual identity, while touching on culture, religion and politics." The show opens April 18 and continues through May 15.

From time to time, Timothy Jahn, head instructor of Ani Art Academies Anguilla, will turn the canvas on himself with often amusing results. He wonders if Rembrandt, the most famous "selfie" painter, "would be blowing up Instagram with a selfie a day." Jahn built the collar in his *Selfie* to honor the Dutch artist. He parodies the way people "get all dressed up and put on their best outfit, and make their best face, and try to take their best selfie. It's really a bit silly, just like my painting."

Australian artist Elena Green refers to Plato's three components to the soul—reason, spirit and appetite—in her charcoal and pastel drawing *The First Hour*. The subject's true soul breaks through "a layer of societal attribution."

Another graphite drawing, by Oakland, California, artist Emma Hirst, is *Nesting*, an empty nest isolated in a white field. She says, "This drawing is

1
Emma Hirst,
Nesting, graphite,
8 x 12"

2
Timothy Jahn, *Selfie*,
oil on panel, 30 x 30"



Scan for
VIDEO



1





3

Anthony Waichulis,
A Love Story, oil on panel,
 10 x 8"

4

Erika Baez, *About a Bird*,
 oil, 10 x 8"

5

Elena Green, *The First Hour* (detail),
 charcoal and pastel on paper,
 21½ x 14"

meant to explore gender roles as defined by nature, versus those altered or accentuated through culture." Although nature may assign roles for reproduction and survival, she finds that society can change them. "The empty nest is intended to represent the shift in the traditional female role from caretaker and homemaker to primary breadwinner."

Erika Baez, who lives in Washington, D.C., takes a less serious, but insightful look at the exhibition's theme from the viewpoint of a child. Her paintings *About a Bird* and *About a Bee* refer to the age-old topic of "the birds and the bees" talk parents dread giving to their children. They represent "the portrayal of sex from the innocent perspective of a child... I incorporated children's toys, with which I am often inspired in my work," says Baez. "Also, I wanted the pieces to revolve around spring, a season associated with bloom, birth and life. Spring is also the time of the exhibit's opening, and I thought it appropriate for the two to coincide."

The theme is treated in different ways and different media and celebrates, as Rehs Galleries originally intended, "the good, the talented and the skilled." ●

SEXES

When: April 18-May 15, 2015

Where: Rehs Contemporary Galleries,
 5 E. 57th Street, New York, NY 10022

Information: (212) 355-5710, www.rehs.com



4



5