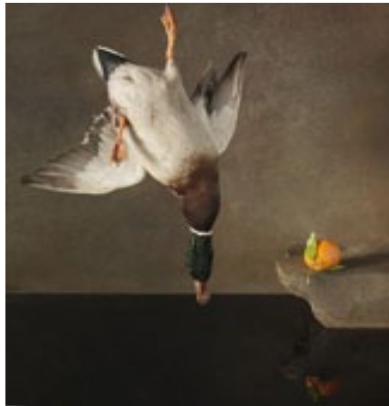




When is a painting a photograph?



'Falling bird, imbalance' by Ori Gersht.

With 152 galleries from 27 countries, as a barometer of the world's art market, London's Frieze Art Fair pointed to stormy weather but not total paralysis. Last year's feeding frenzy of 5-minute decisions by new buyers was replaced by more reflective buying from seasoned collectors, with even some bargaining creeping in. As for photography, it was much in evidence again, with many gallery stalls dominated by huge, glossy prints. Amongst all the razamatazz, my eye was caught by what looked like Renaissance still-life paintings, tucked away within New York gallery CRG's stand. Far from being paintings or even still, these turned out to be the quietly unsettling photographs of London-based Israeli, Ori Gersht, featuring dramatic events such as falling ducks. With their textured surface and classic settings, these off-beat, humorous prints create an intriguing blur between painting and photography.

I found this painting/photography crossover in reverse on a visit to the impressive, newly-opened Saatchi Gallery in Chelsea. No actual photographs were included in Charles Saatchi's first exhibition 'The Revolution continues: New Art from China' but the oil paintings of Li Songsong, Shi Xinning and Zhang Xiaogang have the distinct reportage look of photographs, using newspaper images as reference or including splotches to mimic old film imperfections. Paintings are made to look like photographs, creating a strikingly effective hybrid.

I hope you've enjoyed reading my bi-monthly newsletter that I send out to valued clients and people interested in my photography. Feel free to email me any feedback on photos@nikigorick.com



'Finish line, Greenwich' by Niki Gorick

Selling the city

Recent work with clients preparing for the 2012 Olympic Games has highlighted how important it is to promote London as a vibrant, dynamic city, despite the troubled economic situation. Using interesting, artistic images obviously helps and having seen how the success of the Beijing Games lifted the general mood in the summer, concentrating on the positive aspects of what London has to offer must be a good idea. With that in mind, I'm continuing to try and capture the best of London's sport and culture to add to my website and the Britain on View image library.



'Cradle' by Dryden Goodwin.

Etched meaning

In Dryden Goodwin's excellent 'Cast' exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery, photographs are the raw material onto which this accomplished draughtsman then etches web-like markings. Capturing people's faces in London's West End streets, he adds a further dimension of meaning through these physical marks, suggesting the emotional inner life of his unknown subjects. Far from defacing his photographs, these potentially hostile scratches create a surprising empathy and a fascinating fusion of photography and drawing.

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