



Newsletter | Spring 2010

Playing detective - the art of the portrait



'Pablo Picasso at La Californie', Cannes, by Irving Penn, 1957.

For seven decades, **Irving Penn** hunted the real behind the facade, the true character beneath the outward show. Over 120 photographs at the **National Portrait Gallery** celebrate his success at this, his extraordinary ability to strip away layers of pretence to capture the essence of his sitter, be it the flamboyant but fractured Truman Capote or the imperious Duchess of Windsor. Major cultural figures were his speciality and over the years he probed deeper, moving his lens ever closer, until often only one eye in a sea of shadow would give the game away. Props were kept to a minimum but could be vital clues -- Picasso's rakish hat brim over one beady eye conveys an impish but dangerous character. Over at the **Host Gallery**, **Jane Hilton's** portraits of contemporary cowboys offer a rich array of props as clues to their owners' mindsets. She avoids cliched rodeo images to show these iconic American figures at home, amongst the personal paraphernalia of domestic life. Pets, TVs and sofas abound but the great outdoors still dominates in the astonishing array of stirrups, boots and mounted animal heads. These modern-day horsemen no longer sleep out under the stars but as these statuesque portraits reveal, they are still Wild West heroes at heart. **Annabel Elgar's** photographs of constructed rooms at **Wapping Project Bankside** might not feature people at all but still suggest strong, absent personalities, usually with an obsessional bent. These figureless spaces are redolent with clues, inviting you to make portraits in your head of who might create such things as a castle of bread -- these are portraits only waiting for the viewer to fill in the dots.

I hope you've enjoyed reading my quarterly 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



'Photo-collection No. 9', Brodies Bar, Azura by Niki Gorick

Photo launch

Darcey Bussell launched P&O's latest superliner, **Azura**, and I was invited on board to view my commission to create a dynamic London theme for the main Brodies Bar, named after the company's founder. It was very exciting to see these 15 wall-size artworks of over 200 prints in situ and hear feedback on how they have already inspired enthusiastic responses to London's many different facets.

"The art on the Azura will bring the ship to life. We are proud to be working with some of the most talented artists in the UK like Niki Gorick."

Carol Marlow, Managing Director, P&O Cruises



'Arctic Fox' by Susanna Majuri

Ice maidens

Aquatic dreamscapes involving arctic animals and mysterious nymphs in icy waters create a distinctly Nordic feel to Finnish photographer, **Susanna Majuri's** exhibition at the **Purdy Hicks Gallery**, near Tate Modern. These richly coloured images use the smooth, distorting surfaces of water and ice to conjure up tantalising and surreal narratives with an edge. It's difficult to tell if these are truly damsels in distress but underneath the fairy-tale surface there is a darkness and depth that's wonderfully unsettling -- Scandinavian angst with a poetic twist.

Buying options from £90:

- image supply only • framed prints
- aluminium mounted prints • wallpaper prints

Commissions welcomed.

www.nikigorick.com

Contact me:

01923 855439

photos@nikigorick.com