

H. Craig Hanna

H. Craig Hanna was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He studied Fine Art in New York achieving a Bachelor degree in Fine Arts from Syracuse University in 1990 and a Masters Degree in Fine Art from the School of Visual Arts in 1997. His professional training was completed by a year spent at the New York Academy of Figurative Art. His work is in the collections of actress Drew Barrymore, Marc Jacobs, cult film-maker Paul Morrissey, the Groucho Club and numerous private collections in both the USA and the United Kingdom. H. Craig Hanna lives and works in London.

H. Craig Hanna's paintings are hauntingly beautiful. The majority of his work is comprised of diptychs which he paints on to canvas, timber or copper. One panel of the diptych is abstract, either gestural or with unassociated images placed randomly on the plane. The other panel is a figure or face that is executed with an Egon Schiele-esque boldness of line and startling explicitness. He paints recognisable human beings as opposed to standard images of physically perfect or stereotypically imperfect 'types'. They are not, however, portraits, and most have their identities effaced, faces obstructed, but their presence is the strongest and most captivating element in the painting.

Hanna plays off apparently unrelated elements against this depiction of the human figure. By splitting the picture surface into two in an almost cinematic way (one thinks of 'split screen'), he combines figuration and abstraction, representation and association. These paintings work the tension between different orders of sign, using juxtaposition to create formal harmonies and visual metaphors.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2002 Westbourne Studios, London, United Kingdom
Lyman Sann Gallery, New York, USA
- 2001 Oxo Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Galerie Martini, Central, Hong Kong
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Groucho Club, Soho, London, United Kingdom
- 1999 Blains Fine Art, London, United Kingdom
Belgarde Gallery, New York, USA
- 1998 Gallery at Bergdorf Goodman, New York, USA
- 1997 Space Gallery, New York, USA

AWARDS

- 2001 BP Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK

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