

# HEATHER JAMES FINE ART

## A VIEW TO THE SOUL: PORTRAITURE, OLD AND NEW OPENS MARCH 27, 2010 AT HEATHER JAMES FINE ART



**March 15, 2010 - Palm Desert, CA - Heather James Fine Art is pleased to present the exhibition *A View to the Soul: Portraiture, Old and New*, with an opening reception on Saturday, March 27th, 6-8 PM. The exhibition will run through May 30, 2010. Please RSVP [emily@heatherjames.com](mailto:emily@heatherjames.com).**

Comprising of thirty-four works of art and spanning an ambitiously broad time-frame, the exhibition begins with a Pre-Colombian Olmec mask dating from 1,000 to 500 BC and flows through stylistic periods and artistic media to the contemporary output of sculptress **Micaela Amato** and photographer **Lawrence Schiller**.

Unifying these distinctive selections is an emotive content which imbues even the stylized anonymity of **Winold Reiss'** 1929 Art Deco commission, *An American Beauty*, as well as the kitsch banality of the work of Pop artists **Andy Warhol** and **Tom Wesselman**, represented respectively by *Liz II* and *Maquette for Bedroom Face with Tulip*.

The gestural brushwork in **Berthe Morisot's** 1871 *Jeune femme* speaks to her ardent study of seventeenth century Spanish painting, alongside teacher Edouard Manet. The result is a charming and intimate portrait of a young, dark haired woman with languid eyes and soulful expression.

Such introspection is also found in the 1979 silver gelatin print by **Tseng Kwong Chi** titled *New York, New York*, in which the twenty-nine year-old photographer places himself as the foreground to the towering Empire State Building, his eyes concealed behind sunglasses, temporarily shielding him from his approaching, poignant demise.

British artist **John Stezaker** uses photography as a vehicle for greater expression, exemplified by the two film star portraits from his so-called "Love" series included in the exhibition. In a masterful study in phenomenology, Stezaker succeeds in magnifying the emotions and expressions only implied in the original images through a series of subtle alterations, deletions and juxtapositions.

In 1978 American master **Andrew Wyeth** painted a series of portraits of his premier model, Helga, on her knees. *Surf* has the nude model submerged up to her knees while holding her hands clasped above her head. The translucence of the watercolor is graced by the suppleness of the pose. In contrast, **Alberto Giacometti's** *Tête de femme* is a cutting use of ballpoint pens, an impulsive application of medium to support, yielding an aggressively executed and spontaneously conceived portrait of a woman.

*A View to the Soul: Portraiture, Old and New* is an enticing display of material. Other artists' work include that of **Diego Rivera**, **Pablo Picasso**, **Pierre Bonnard**, **Francisco Zuniga**, **Milton Avery**, **Alex Katz**, **Robert Graham**, **David Mach**, **Tip Toland**, **Lawrence Lee**, **Krisjanis Kaktins-Gorsline**, **Kim McCarty**, **Steven Assael**, **Yang Maoyuan**, and **Zhang Huan**.

The 8,500 square foot Heather James Fine Art is located at 45188 Portola Avenue in Palm Desert and features a wide array of art ranging from Impressionist and Modern to Post-War and Contemporary, American, Latin American, Old Master, Photography and Design. Visit us online at [www.heatherjames.com](http://www.heatherjames.com).