

HandTraits 40, 2025



Anila Rubiku

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serie Handtraits

Lithography & Oil on Silver plate 325 - Original Frame

Unique artwork

courtesy Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise

Description:

What is a portrait today?

When visiting a gallery at the National Gallery of Art, one encounters Dutch paintings and the portraits of Johannes Vermeer and Rembrandt—their richness, their poverty, the faces and clothing of the time they depict. What is the future of portraiture?

Cosmetic surgery and injections are transforming our faces every day. Most of us aspire to a similar ideal, yet the hand is the object that best represents naked truth. Among all species, our hands are unique—not only in what they can accomplish, but also in how they communicate. Human hands can paint the Sistine Chapel, pluck the strings of a guitar, handle surgical instruments, sculpt a David, forge steel, and write poetry. They can grasp, scratch, prick, strike, feel, perceive, evaluate, hold, and shape the world around us. Our hands are extremely expressive; they can translate for the deaf, help tell a story, or reveal our most intimate thoughts. They are our “Hand-Traits.”