

Inge Clayton



This artist has made her mark over the last 20 years as a highly original and much exhibited painter of the female nude. By Colin Andrews

Inge has lived and worked in London since arriving from Austria in the sixties. She studied life drawing and printmaking at Camden and has made her mark over the last twenty years as a highly original and much exhibited painter of the female nude. British critics are often quick to point out her European heritage, likening her work to Otto Dix, Kokoschka and George Grosz and she would be happy to acknowledge their influence. But even a cursory glance reveals a high degree of individuality in both style and imagery which sets her apart and places her in a class and category which is almost unique.

One would be hard pressed to find another female painter who so actively celebrates the subject of her own sex ruthlessly and openly engaged in street trading and prostitution. In this post feminist age it is remarkable not only that she chooses to paint women but that she manages to imbue her characters with such power despite their naked or half dressed abandonment and the ever present danger of their situation. These women have a commanding presence; they are

neither oppressed nor victimised, but women in control of their sexuality and the manner in which they choose to live and work.

If there is vulnerability it is to be found amongst the men. Desirous they may be, but they are also wracked with guilt and self doubt and perhaps a little fearful too. There is no mistaking who is wearing the trousers in these pictures!

If by some chance you don't care for the imagery then just take a look at the paint itself. Inge is about as good as they get at describing form, attitude and expression with the simplest and deftest touch of the brush. She is master ...or should we say mistress...of her trade, producing work of extraordinary seductive power and dark Berlinesque beauty

art of england