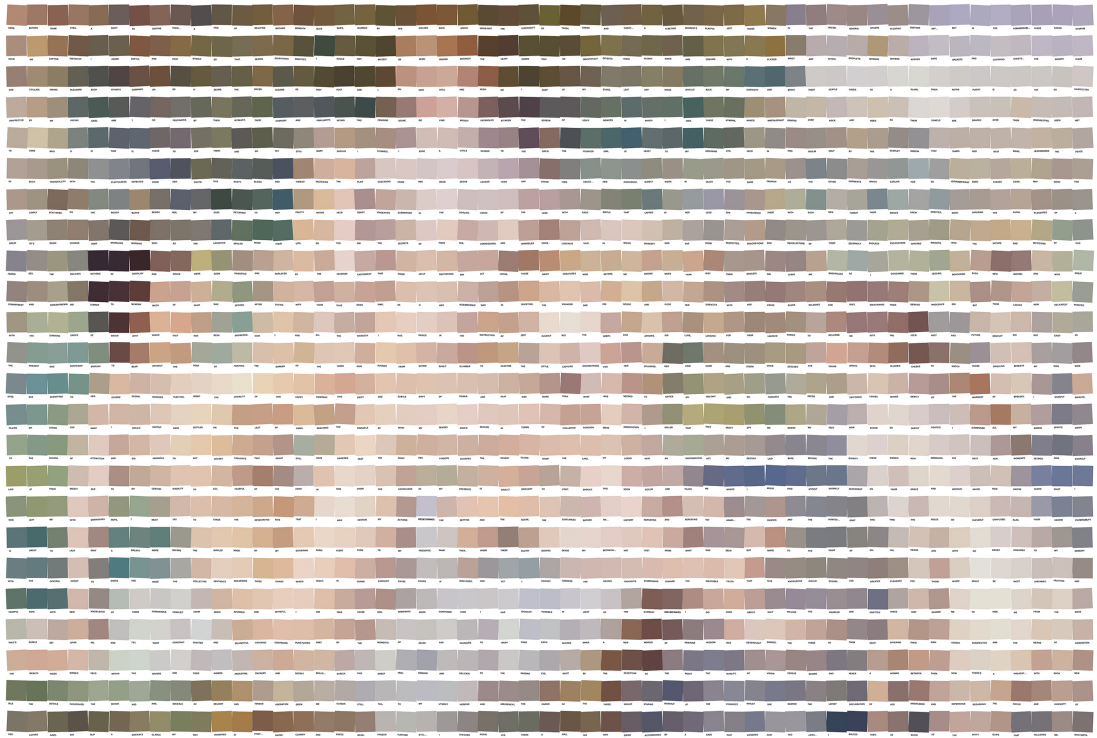


R H O D E S
C O N T E M P O R A R Y A R T

Presents



POSED

VOICE OF THE MUSE

NICK SMITH

24.11.22 - 22.12.22

PRESENTED BY **RHODES CONTEMPORARY ART** LONDON

Rhodes Contemporary Art are delighted to announce Nick Smith's phenomenal tenth gallery exhibition, 'POSED' opening at the new gallery space in Fitzrovia, London.

After a hiatus experimenting with individual colour chips and examining the realms of digital and collaborative art, Smith returns to his more familiar pixelated colour-chip style, presenting us with new ways to look at iconic art historical images we think we know so well.

Focusing on nudes rooted in the Western Art Historical Canon, Smith seeks to give a voice to those famous and recognisable muses we often recall visually so well, yet know little to nothing about. What stories could lie behind the figures in the images? Smith has laced this new series of works with original prose voiced from the point of view of the muse, for the first time ever giving the subject of the painting their own voice and creating a fictional narrative behind the works.

Smith's distinctive style not only encourages us to imagine beyond the image, but also experiments with how far an image can be changed while still being recognisable. Breaking the image down into coloured pixels, Smith picks out those details we don't even realise we know so well; the deep blue of a Hockney Californian pool, or the orange hue so familiar of a Botticelli goddesses hair. The technique has an ability to change the overall sense of the image, from a detailed nude to a dreamy, abstracted collection of beautiful colours.

This is best exemplified in his 'Wish You Were Here' series featured in the show. In this series, Smith takes contemporary nudes; tongue-in-cheek references to 'Page Three' and what 'nude' has become in modern times, referenced by modern media. The works are completely pixelated, broken down to the bare bones of what the original photograph depicts and yet they are still instantly recognisable. The pixelated effect almost makes the works appear distorted for 'age restricted content'.

The exhibition will run 25th November to 22nd December, with a drinks reception hosted on 24th November, 6-9pm (RSVP only).

About Nick Smith

Contemporary artist Nick Smith creates pixelated works with hand placed colour-chips, synonymous with colour swatches, cleverly combining text and image to create intriguing and provocative collaged works.

With a previous career in Interior Design spanning 11 years, Smith references his concept design background throughout his work, reworking the design aesthetic using unique colour swatches in hand-made collages, placing his work firmly in the fine art category. From his first collage experiment, back in 2011 of Warhol's 'Marilyn', when he assembled a tessellation of swatches as a challenge, this eventually inspired his career as an artist and determined his unique style he is now known for.

The multi-layered element of his work, which marries image and word, allows Smith to explore complex art-historical concepts. The text employed is often narrative, referring Greek mythology or classical literature, which can be read in sequence adding another element of intrigue and interest to the work. This additional element of text, placed under the empty space of each swatch, creates either complimentary or subversive meanings. Smith deliberately leaves these word/image constructions open to viewer interpretation, sparking new debates and meanings.

For sales and exhibition enquiries, please contact info@rhodescontemporaryart.com

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