



Palais des Nations in Geneva, October 25th – November 11th, 2016

Ross Rossin's exhibition *“Ultimately Human: the leaders and the led”*

“Ultimately Human: the leaders and the led” is a timely exhibition at the UN, by the Bulgarian born US artist which reminds us in these troubled times of the entitlement for all to human rights regardless of race or religion.

EVELYN CANTACUZENE-SPÉRANSKY

This principle has been the corner stone of the United Nations charter since adopted by the General Assembly on 10th December in 1948. Rossin has dedicated his life and his art to demonstrate this communality.

What does Jimmy Carter, Maya Angelo and Desmond Tuto have in common with the turbaned Man from Vrindravan and the green eyed Girl from Pushkar? They all fall under the artistic scrutiny of the Bulgarian born artist Ross Rossin, who came as an immigrant to the US in 2001 and ended up painting Presidents and the Captains of Industry.

In this exhibition, *“Ultimately Human: the Leaders and the Led”*, October 25-November 11th, at the Palais des Nations,

UN, sixteen very large hyper real, oil on canvas, portraits, will exemplify the human spirit in its various manifestations- a snap shot of humanity.

Rossin has devoted his life to uncovering the common “spirit” in each one of us, regardless of race or religion, all entitled to the same human rights with no discrimination.

“In my work I study human nature. I’m interested in the Self Within – for the Self is Supreme, Whole and Absolute... For me the human face is a bottomless source of inspiration and is the only way to go deeper and farther into my artistic quest for answers. I’m looking for the God’s particle in each and every one of us. In that sense, I think that we all are One. One, with many faces.”



Ross Rossin in his studio

Rossin's new body of work from India will exhibit alongside the portraits of great statesmen and role models such as Jimmy Carter, Desmond Tuto, Maya Angelou amongst others.

Rossin, a keen Rotarian, has also arranged for a portrait of Paul Harris, founder of Rotary International to be flown from Rotary Headquarters in Evanston to be part of this important exhibition. The portrait had been auctioned raising \$170,500 for the Rotary Foundation and Rossin was named a Paul Harris fellow and Polio Campaign Hero

Rossin's realistic, classic technique harks back to the 17th Century paintings of Velazquez and all of those depicted in the exhibition sat for the artist. The large format used in the portraits, brings the models closer under Rossin's observation, as he delves into the psyche of his sitters. This creates an immediacy and strong bond with the viewer, as each portrait holds your gaze. There is the cinematic feel of the "close up" and Rossin cites Luis Bunuel and Andrei Tarkovksy as being inspirational.

The stark, monochrome or white backgrounds, of the portraits create a powerful, monumental simplification. This differs from the Western pictorial tradition of placing an individual in a concrete setting or environment and is a result of the extensive time Rossin spent in Japan in the 1990s and his study of Japanese lithographs, specifically those of Ukiyo-e.

Rossin's work can be found in numerous public collections i.e. Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta; the Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, NY; Tutu Family Foundation, Cape Town and the Vatican, as well as the private collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

In these very troubled times it is important to be reminded about the communality of Mankind.

You are cordially invited to the Vernissage at the UN, Palais des Nations, Mezzanine, Building E, 3rd Floor, Door 40 on Thursday October 27th 6:00-8:30 p.m. in the presence of Michael Moller,

Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Representative of Rotary International to UN in Geneva, Ambassador Gyger and the Artist. Please join us. ■

1 Evelyn Cantacuzène-Spéransky: formerly the Deputy Secretary of the Chelsea Arts Club, London, is an independent curator based in Geneva.

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