

David Hockney

Portraits

30 April – 27 May 2020

Online exhibition starting from Thursday 30 April at 4 p.m.

only on www.galerie-lelong.com



David Hockney, *Self Portrait IV*, 25 March 2012, 2012, iPad drawing printed on paper, edition of 25, 94 x 71 cm

David Hockney has been practicing the art of the portrait and the self-portrait for more than 60 years. Under the title, "Drawing from Life," the National Portrait Gallery in London recently brought together a wide selection of portraits of five of his favourite subjects produced over these six decades: the artist himself, his mother and three of his closest friends, Celia Birtwell who was already a luminous presence in the famous painting entitled *Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy*; Maurice Payne, his printing assistant with an aquiline profile; and Gregory Evans who was held in high esteem by the artist as each of the portraits drawn of him shows.

In this exhibition, there is a secret figure: time. We can read its sometimes devastating effects on the faces of the models as they age; we also witness the evolution over time of the painter's sentiments towards each of his friends. This is a novel, the novel of a life that is unfolding before our very eyes. The last room, which includes the most recent portraits of all the models, except for his deceased mother, inevitably brings to mind the *In Search of Time Lost* of Marcel Proust.

As an echo to this exhibition, which has unfortunately had to close due to the epidemic, we invite you to an online exhibition of portraits that places special focus on the variety of techniques used by the artist, including drawings on computers, self-portraits on an iPad, photographs, collages of photographs, prints or lithographs.

We find the painter's favourite models, Celia and Gregory, his parents, but also his great friend, Henry Geldzahler, and the famous self-portrait of the artist as a student, his sketch pad under his arm, approaching the bust of Picasso, the revered master.

David Hockney is spending this time of lockdown in his new studio in Normandy, which is where he has produced the latest portraits. But above all, he is feverishly painting the arrival of spring, immortalising the hawthorn, pear, cherry and apple trees blossoming in succession in his garden. This ensemble of work will be the subject of our next exhibition, not online but well and truly for real, in our gallery on rue de Téhéran in Paris.

Requests for visuals: presse@galerie-lelong.com