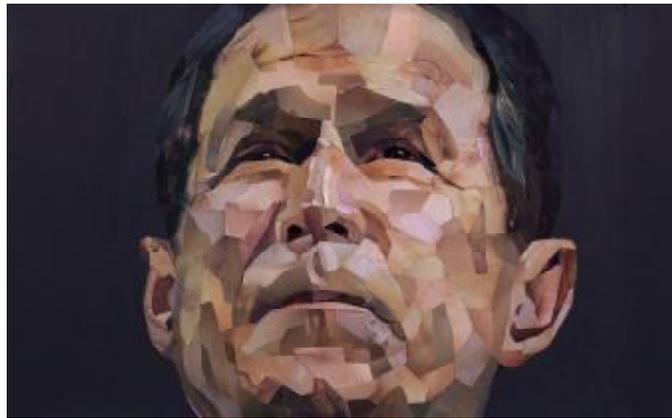


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Press

Release:

Jonathan Yeo
'BLUE PERIOD'
at the Lazarides Gallery London
6 June – 11 July 2008



Jonathan Yeo, leading painter of the glitterati and politicians of our time, will present a series of new works, inspired by his famous George W Bush porn collage, at Lazarides Gallery London.

Yeo's skill in portrait painting has seen him receive commissions from a huge variety of high-profile personalities, from David Walliams to Erin O' Connor, Dennis Hopper to Bush. Yeo's depiction of Tony Blair in 2008 with its blood red remembrance poppy has become the iconic image of the British Prime Minister around the world. When Yeo's talks with George Bush's team slowly ground to a halt, he decided to use his art to offend a man he himself found offensive. The Bush porn portrait (illustrated above) became instantly famous internationally, representing a combination of both political satire and Yeo's obsession with producing highly-crafted pictures.

Now, using the same meticulous techniques, Yeo has created a unique series of collages that, on first glance, look like painterly works of art, but on close inspection, are for top-shelf viewing only. Demure,

neo-Classical nudes and portraits and head Playboy honcho Hugh Hefner appear multi-dimensional and picturesque, but actually hide a multitude of sins. Through gradual layering of the thinnest pages from pornographic publications, Yeo carefully builds up variations in skin tone, nuance of colour and skillfull use of light and shade. The result is a series of works that signifies a dramatic new departure for the artist.

'I've always been intrigued by collage and how I would one day incorporate it into my style of painting. Inspired by my feelings towards the warped moralities behind George Bush's policies, I decided that it was time to turn my frustration into action. I set about creating a new approach that was deceptive, yet traditional, and multi-layered in every sense.'

Breaking the taboo of porn by using it as a fine art material in his work, Yeo has created his most powerfully provocative series of work to date.

Jonathan Yeo was born in 1970 and was almost entirely self-taught. Solo shows include *Jonathan Yeo's Sketchbook* at Eleven Fine Art, London and *Election Art* at Portcullis House, London. Yeo has shown in group shows at Compton Verney, Bloomberg Space and the National Portrait Gallery, which recently bought Yeo's painting of Rupert Murdoch. He has work in the private collections of the House of Commons, Damien Hirst and Dennis Hopper. Yeo's portrait subjects include Minnie Driver, Grayson Perry, Jamie Theakston, Ross Kemp and Marco Pierre White. A fully illustrated, hard backed catalogue with a text by Francesca Gavin will also be available.

Visitor Information

Lazarides Gallery	8 Greek Street Soho, London W1D 4DG
Hours:	Tues-Sat 11am-7pm
Admission:	Free

Directions: Visit www.lazinc.com to download a PDF map with directions

Visitor information: Call: +44 (0)20 3214 0055 or visit:
<http://www.lazinc.com/contact>

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