

# Paul Richards

## Crisis of Identity

22.01.09 – 28.02.09

*“I want to make something as near to life as you can get on canvas”.*



In his first exhibition since 2006 Paul Richards' new series of portraits contain an astonishing power and vitality. After numerous sell-out shows, Connaught Brown is delighted to announce its tenth exhibition of Paul Richards' works, which presents the artist's latest reflections in a substantial group of twenty works.

In a style bordering between abstract and figurative, Richards mixes colours directly on the canvas, retaining an instinctive freedom and freshness. He seeks to capture the essence of life and the individual dynamism that emanates from all things. The figures emerging from the thick, shiny oil seem to breathe in front of us.

Richards creates his own history of portraiture by challenging the existing parameters of his medium. While acknowledging Rembrandt and Van Eyck, he give us his personal response to the tradition through portraits charged with an emotional depth and complexity of extraordinary potency.

A former sculptor and performance artist, Paul Richards belongs to the “eccentric mainstream” of individuality in British Art. Each of his painting is a performance including accidents and improvisation; his feelings towards the person creating their own anarchy. The amazing spontaneity of this delicate balance between chaos and control is one of Richards' hallmarks.

A highly influential and long time lecturer at the Slade School of Fine Art, Richards has a growing international reputation through his highly distinct use of paint.

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