

- ARTCASTE -

NEW PAINTER “OPENS” WITH PORTRAITS September 29, 2011



The current show at Gasser/Grunert Gallery in Chelsea is all about people. “Open,” an exhibition of young painter Anna Navasardian’s expressionist portraits, features intimate portrayals of adult and school-aged subjects whose individual personas are sublimated by their universality, communicating intently with the viewer. A recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon, the Armenian-born artist achieved this effect of distilled humanity through an authentic intimacy with every sitter and a fundamental concern for individual psychology: “I’m just interested in people...it’s really simple. I think it’s interesting to see how people choose to present themselves versus how they appear.”

Navasardian cites German Expressionists, figurative painter Alice Neel, and Armenian artists like Arshile Gorky as influences—influences evident in the strange color palette and expressive brushwork of these captivating renderings of human identity.

While the artist acknowledges an Armenian influence on the current exhibition, she does not necessarily feel bound to her heritage as a framework for future work: of her interest in Armenian subjects and her nationality as an inspiration for her work, she says, “maybe that’s something that will stay with me, I’m not sure.”

“Open” is on display at Gasser/Grunert Gallery until October 8, 2011.

Image courtesy of Gasser/Grunert Gallery