

# GAVLAK

GAVLAK is pleased to announce

## **The Norton Museum of Art's acquisition of *From A Close Distance* by Marc Dennis**



Installation of *From A Close Distance*, 2021, by Marc Dennis at the Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida. Photo: Ashley Kerr.

Courtesy of Norton Museum of Art.

Gavlak is pleased to announce that the Norton Museum of Art acquired the painting *From a Close Distance* by Marc

Dennis. This work is from a series shown in the exhibition *Love in the Time of Corona* at Gavlak Palm Beach in 2021. In the profound isolation of quarantine, Dennis devised a way of getting close to Old Master works that he could not behold in person through reproduction. While mimicry became for the artist a means of personally experiencing the sweetness and pleasure of the original paintings, the proliferation of imagistic reproductions and excerpts in Dennis' canvases ultimately underscores our distance from both the paintings depicted and their subjects. *From a Close Distance* replicates both the otherworldly pearlescence of the women painted by J.A.D. Ingres and the emotional reserve of one of his final sitters.

The painting is installed just outside the Old Masters Gallery on the third floor of the Norton Museum of Art. The work's relationship to historical portraiture serves as a strong contemporary intervention to the historical works just beyond. *From a Close Distance* is not part of a particular exhibition but part of the permanent collection galleries.



Detail of *From a Close Distance*, Marc Dennis

An artist's ability to master trompe l'oeil - an art technique that uses realistic imagery to create the illusion of three dimensionality has dominated romanticized histories of art in the West since antiquity. Dennis' painting *From a Close Distance*, similarly tests viewers' powers to discern representation from reality.

In his signature hyperrealist style, Dennis seeks to find new meaning in the sanctified lineage of Old Master painting in order to explore contemporary questions of love, artistic ownership, pictorial representation, and the consumption of images. Here he has painted a famous portrait by the French artist Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres from 1851-53 of Joséphine-Éléonore-Marie-Pauline de Galard de Brassac de Béarn, Princesse de Broglie.

The scumbled trails of dry brush marks flecking the artist's studio wall along with assorted photo references and sketches serve as evidence of the highly personal painting process; and are as illusory as the highly tactile folds and creases in the woman's dress, her pearly flesh tones and far away eyes. Bringing together historical iconography and personal and pop imagery, Dennis mediates disparate modes of representation to reveal unexpected commonalities across eras and media, alluding to the imbricated surfaces of our devices where time and space seem to collapse.

- Norton Museum of Art

# NORTON

