

RAFAL OLBINSKI

ABOUT LOVE

OPENING RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 7 – 9 PM

THE ARTIST WILL SIGN HIS NEW BOOK, *WOMEN* (HUDSON HILLS PRESS, 2007) AT ENTERTAINMENT GALLERIES IN THE GRAND CANAL SHOPPES OF THE VENETIAN HOTEL 3377 LAS VEGAS BLVD. SOUTH • TELEPHONE: 702-866-6813 • FAX: 702-862-8615.

RAFAL OLBINSKI

ABOUT...

Love...

As you know from your own experience, love is not a cliché. Love is the most important human emotion. Bertrand Russell speaks about this, about love's importance in humanity. It is what separates us from the animals. He says there are three things that define humanity: the quest for knowledge, the need for love, and compassion. Love is one of these core things that makes us human.

Women...

*Creating a woman in particular is like living one more time this myth of Pygmalion. You create reality in which you would like to live.**

Falling in Love with Art...

I believe that every artist falls in love with his work, especially when you paint women. This mermaid painting I just completed, I am mesmerized when I look at her face... Her face is shining.

Women and Opera...

*Women became one of my main motives. Which is only natural, I suppose, since with opera, over and over, you have men writing about women, it is their principal theme.**

Painting Salome...

*It's hard to retrace the process. I was absolutely conscious of the provocation and the controversy which was caused by the rewriting of the libretto by Oscar Wilde. This changing of the idea that this child, this almost-child, Salome, was the seducer, that this is her obsession, not implanted by her mother. And this you remember caused a big controversy in the history of the opera. So I wanted to be controversial, I wanted to be scandalous with this poster.**

Surrealism and Mythology...

*Mythology is like a festival of surrealism, the very wellspring of surrealism.**

Variations in Painting...

*You are not aiming for photographic accuracy or naturalism. Rather, a tree – or a woman – stand in for something, and, as in a poem, carry a weight of associations, meanings, metaphoric resonances, which carry from one instance to the next.**

*Quotes taken from Rafal Olbinski's interview with Lawrence Weschler, published in *Women* (Hudson Hills Press, 2007)

