

# Emilio Kruithof

Emilio Kruithof graduated from the Sint Joost Academy of Fine Arts in Breda in 1995. Almost immediately he was invited to mount a number of exhibitions. Emilio's work - he paints portraits of women in his own particular way - is highly regarded both in his native country and abroad. He explained in an interview:

"I go for what touches my heart. I find women beautiful: women are my subject. I used to collect illustrations of women from LP covers, the Internet and magazines. My female friends read Vogue and Cosmopolitan, and whenever I can I browse through their literature. The colours of creams, make-up, lingerie ... these are the colours of my palette.

The skin of models looks so magical. The skin must be unblemished, smooth to the touch. Silence of the Lambs? Ah, my favourite B-film. But I'm a painter, you understand. For me, the skin is everything. I can't go for long walks along the beach, I have to paint. And when I do, I can't have women around me. They are loved ones, my objects. They don't mean any more to me than the form on which I project my love. Yes, they're objects, like a vase for Morandi or celebrities for Warhol.

I paint for the same reason as a woman puts on makeup. They do it every day with great care. I paint every day with the same care. Erotic minimalism. The form, the appearance, the attitude, the tone, pasty, transparencies and the brush stroke. The last touch, that's what it's all about. Once I see my model on the canvass, I have done everything to her. She has the right posture, the exact framing, the layering and structure. Finally comes my last, intimate "touch," the stroke with which I give her slip the right to exist, with which I give her lips the status of a monument.