

BLOUIN ARTINFO

Enoc Perez's Instagram Picassos at Galerie Nathalie Obadia

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Untitled (Instagram), 2014, oil on canvas, 60 x 48 inches (152.4 x 121.9 cm)

Galerie Nathalie Obadia has opened an exhibition of new paintings by Puerto Rico-born American painter Enoc Perez who is best known for his utopian paintings of modernist buildings as well as his provocative nudes. With his new series of paintings, Perez “attempts to reinvent Cubism in the moment of Instagram, Facebook, and other social networks,” according to Galerie Nathalie Obadia.

Drawing influence from Picasso, whose paintings he has collaged with images from Instagram followers and other photographic self-portraits posted by women on social networks, Perez has created works that are

PETER BLUM GALLERY

somewhere between photography, collage, and drawing. “In these paintings, Picasso’s body of work becomes a pictorial genre, like portraiture, landscapes and still lifes,” Perez explains

“Like many other artists — Lichtenstein, Julian Schnabel, Richard Prince and many others — I always wanted to paint my own Picassos, I just had to find a means,” he says. “I wanted to represent the photos and paintings with a certain aggressiveness, in a very direct manner but without cruelty: and it had to resemble our moment in time.”

“The result is a very pure experience of painting in rediscovering Picasso by actually quoting him directly. And also a painting that is full of seemingly contradictory ideas living in some kind of nervous harmony. And I like that because that type of thing is something that I believe painting can hold well.”

Revealing the time and effort invested in the creation of each work, Perez’s multi-layered, highly worked surfaces, executed in his signature silvery, monochrome palette, express the energy and vitality of the social media realm while at the same time subvert the expendability of digital sphere and the detached immediacy of its frenzied devotee, occupying the contested space between cultural artefact and social document.

Enoc Perez is at Galerie Nathalie Obadia until July 25, 2015.