

A letter to Parkett from Marlene Dumas

ART IS
ALWAYS
having to say
Goodbye.

How many fears, how many years
have passed since 1984 and now?
Sometimes I think my whole oeuvre
is set, or is it just my object matter?
between Hallo and Goodbye
How to mourn gracefully and how to love
shamelessly. All those portraits that
aren't really portraits, but rather signs of
our time. To name a few - The Sadness
of one's own color. The face as the place where
the evil takes place. Acknowledging that
White is not being NORM-al(L)

New MODELS. All those naked strong
WOMEN. Confrontational and artificial
MEMBERS of a new race,
Myths and catwalks meet.
Mobile models not passive sitters
MAKE up keeps emotions
at a distance

A celebration of
Female Sexuality
and the wonders of the male sexual organs.
Mature women, other women
younger boys.
Intimacy meets pornography
Paintings dancing with their frames
The seduced gaze belongs to
everybody

Back to mourning
The end of the American Dream.
I am slow, didn't know
till much too late, who was
where and when what
happened

Trying to say hallo again
Missing the humour in the
dark times. Erotic inspiration.
Missing the artwork when
it leaves, changes hands.
The painting lives its own
life, without the painter.



Selfportrait at Noon, 2008



The White Disease, 1985



Waterproof Mascara, 2008



Magdalena (A Painting needs a Wall to Object to), 1995



Magdalena (Out of Eggs, Out of Business), 1995



Leather Boots, 2000



Direction, 1999



Fingers, 1999



Dead Marilyn, 2008



The Woman of Algiers, 2001



Dead Girl, 2002



Missing Picasso, 2013



The Death of the Author, 2003



The Kiss, 2003

Vanity and Violence
The violence are not to be painted.
The violence happened before,
All paintings become
still lifes in the end



The Swan, 2005

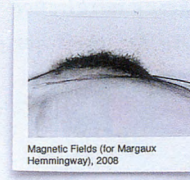


Skull (of a Woman), 2005

the Loss of love versus
the magic of the imagination
and the 'almost' touch...
All paintings become like
landscapes in the end,
taking the eyes on a trip
to the edges.



Immaculate, 2003



Magnetic Fields (for Margaux Hemingway), 2008



The Prophet, 2004

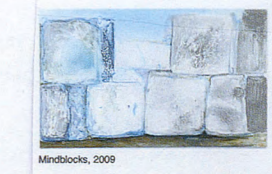


Free Jesus, 2013

Different MODELS
All dressed-up
Never thought that at the end
of the 20th C, everyone
would start to 'look as if
they've just walked out of
the Bible
Man MEN and Most Wanted men
And a God either forced to
Bless America all the time
or under another name,
kill customists, or in his
former name approves of
occupied territories
and you name them!
Oh the sins of the fathers.



Figure in a Landscape, 2010



Mindblocks, 2009



Jean Genet, 2016



Mohammed El-Khatrani

Let's not end here but rather
with a love story like Genet and his last lover,
Or with
Venus and Adonis. She wanted to teach him about love
but he went off to war (to hunt the wild boar) instead.