

Collections 2002 – 2005

Head II - Shani Rhys James



Shani Rhys James (b.1953), one of the most eminent of contemporary Welsh artists, lives in Powys.

In 2003, she was named Woman in Culture at the Western Mail Welsh Woman of the Year Awards. This is the second in a challenging series of three 'Heads' recently acquired by the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery.

Early immersion in the world of theatre, via her parents, has led the artist to a fascination with what she has described as "...that mask thing of the theatre, the lead paint on the face and the wig - the disguise you go through." (Curtis, Welsh Painters Talking) To make a self-portrait the artist has to look in a mirror. In looking in a mirror, Shani is also questioning her self-image. What is reality; do we construct an idealised self-image in this act of looking?

Through the media we are bombarded with notions of idealised beauty and how it can be achieved. In this process of looking we must also be aware that we are looked at, both the surveyor and surveyed.

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To see more works by Shani Rhys James in the Glynn Vivian permanent collection, see Head I and Head III.