

Collections 2002 – 2005

**Head III - Shani Rhys James**

Oil on linen  
31cm x 25 cm



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

In her barn-like studio she produces the striking, often disturbing works that brought her the prestigious Jerwood Prize for Painting in 2003.

This is the third in a sequence of 'Heads' recently acquired by the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery. There is an androgynous quality to the face that stares out from the unframed canvas. It has been observed that men appear rarely in Shani's work. This is interesting in art historical terms, as traditionally it has been the male artist who has depicted women, often motivated by desire.

In this painting Shani has made herself androgynous, there is nothing in her demeanour, to indicate that she is female. She is refuting the male gaze, establishing her position as an artist and a woman.

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

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