

Ian Ingram

(American, b. 1974, lives in Austin, Texas)

Ian Ingram's work is often about moments of transition, points in life when change occurs. His self-portraits are autobiographical reflections of meaningful events, such as his wedding, or the birth of his child. Ingram describes these emotional moments as "times when a decision or an action changes your entire worldview. The image is of leaving one world and pushing through to another." His hyper-realistic and intensely emotional self-portraits arrest the viewer with a direct gaze that at times seems almost uncomfortably intimate. Art critic Kristin Barendsen states, "Viewing these intense self-portraits isn't like looking at another person-its like being another person looking in the mirror, searching for meaning inside your own brilliant eyes." Drawings are often considered the most direct connection between an artist and his ideas, and Ingram's self-portraits are no exception. Beyond serving as a vehicle to relay his feelings to the outside world, Ingram's drawings become unflinching windows into his subconscious, and serve as a tool for his own self-reflection and rumination.

Ian Ingram's tightly rendered canvases are realistic yet dreamlike, and demonstrate a range of techniques. From dramatic contrasts of light, dark, and line, to organic methods of cross contours, grids, and blending, each method plays a role in building the subtleties, nuances, and porous surfaces of the human face. Working with a base of charcoal, pastel, ink, and watercolor, Ingram also incorporates more unconventional materials, such as beads, beeswax, metallic thread, silver leaf, string, and even butterfly wings. The embrace of these organic patterns and mediums has become a critical component to Ingram's creative process and has increased the aesthetic complexity of his finished works.

Art historian Garth Clark explains, "Take each drawing, remove everything extraneous and focus on the face unadorned. Do this again and again and it becomes clear...what makes [Ingram] so unique in an otherwise crowded genre. He is a mapmaker of his face with a particular specialization, topography. Topography is the precise recording of rising and falling contours that illustrate the three-dimensional matrix of a particular region or landmass. And this is what Ingram does to his face. [Ingram has taken] a handsome face and converted it into startlingly rugged terrain; huge pores, a hillock of a nose, stubble that looks like steel cable, and fissured lips that could pass for an arroyo."

Ingram's work is included in numerous private collections, as well as the permanent collection of the De Young Museum in San Francisco, CA, and the Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY. Ingram was born in 1974 in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia, and currently lives and works in Austin, Texas.

101 / EXHIBIT

Education

- 1996-98 University of Georgia, Athens, GA
1995 Washington University, St. Louis, MO
1994 Temple/Tyler Art School, Rome, Italy
1993-94 Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 *Ash and Oil*, 101/EXHIBIT, Los Angeles, CA
2010 *Divining*, Barry Friedman Ltd., New York, NY
2006 *The Opposite of Death: Translations of India*, Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
2004 *Five Skin Ten Skin: Drawings by Ian Ingram*, Quan Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
2001 *Jazz: Drawings by Ian Ingram*, Churchill Grounds, Atlanta, GA
2000 *Drawings by: Ian Ingram*, The Youngblood Gallery, Atlanta, GA
1998 *Recent works: Ian Ingram*, University Gallery, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
1997 *Figure Drawings*, University Gallery, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *Ian Ingram, Charles Pfahl, Larry Rivers*, 101/EXHIBIT, Los Angeles, CA
2011 *New Art in Austin: 15 to Watch*, Austin Museum of Art, Austin, TX
2007 *The Diane and Sandy Besser Collection*, De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA
Curator's Choice, Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
2005 *Representing Representation VII*, Arnot Museum, Elmira, NY
Collecting Under 2000, Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
Eye Spy, Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
Dead Word, Collaboration with artist Rocky Lewycky, Bang Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
2004 *Metals in Contemporary Art*, Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
Triplets of Blue Star and Champion, Blue Star Gallery, San Antonio, TX
1998 *349: BFA exhibition*, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
1997 *Shine*, Faculty, graduate, and undergraduate show, University Gallery, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Juried Shows

- 1998 Loblolly Gallery, Athens, GA, Best of Show

Collections

- Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR
De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA
Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY
The Diane and Sandy Besser Collection, Santa Fe, NM
Kenneth Stone, New York, NY
Collection of Howard and Judith Tullman, Chicago, IL
Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH
Daniel Rubin, UK
Elton John, UK
Ömer Koç, Turkey
William C. Gautreaux, Kansas City, MO

Selected Bibliography

- 2015 Navarrete, Constanza. "Hombre Ante El Espejo" ["Man in the Mirror"]. *Arte Al Limite* May-June 2015: 130-35. Print.
- 2014 Voynovskaya, Nastia. "Ian Ingram's Enigmatic Charcoal Drawings." *Hi-Fructose* 20 Jun. 2014. Web.
- 2012 Bennett, Steve. "Not-so-basic Drawings About Moving the Line." *San Antonio Express* 18 Mar. 2012. Web.
- 2011 "Artist to Watch: Ian Ingram." *The Art Economist* 1.4 (2011): 67. Print.
- Parks, John A. "Mapping the Self in Large-Scale Drawings." *American Artist Drawing* Winter 2011. Print.
- Hager, Liz. "Man With a Mirror: Ian Ingram at artMRKT." *Venetian Red* 23 May 2011. Web.
- 2010 McClemon, Doug. "Review: Kukuli Velarde and Ian Ingram at Barry Friedman." *ARTnews* May 2010: 115-16. Print.
- Clark, Garth. "Ian Ingram Mapmaker-Draftsman." *Adobe Airstream* Apr. 2010. Web.
- 2009 "Art Miami: The Scene." *Florida International Magazine* Nov. 2009. Print.
- 2005 Osterman, Julie. "Artists to Watch: Ian Ingram." *Southwest Art* Sept. 2005. Print.