





Ian Ingram, *Forgotten Offerings*, 2010.
Charcoal, pastel, beads, string, beeswax, gold leaf, on paper,
82 1/2 x 51 in. (209.6 x 129.5 cm), Courtesy Barry Friedman, Ltd. New York.

IAN INGRAM

ARTIST TO WATCH

Our editors discovered the work of Ian Ingram at the recent American International Fine Art Fair in Palm Beach, Florida. The striking presence of his giant drawings caught our attention and made an indelible impression.

What makes Ingram's self-portraits so remarkable is a trifecta of virtuosity, scale and material. The skill with which the artist draws his hyper-realistic portrayals is undeniable, but that he is able to render the microscopic details of his own face magnified to such a large size is what makes them outstanding. These drawings are up to seven feet high (definitely an example of artwork that one must be in front of to fully appreciate, as reproductions provide only a fraction of the effect). To produce such minute detail blown up to super-size takes the artist a labor-intensive three months to complete each drawing.

Although the realism and scale of this artist's work call to mind the realistic paintings and large photographs of an artist like Chuck Close, what sets Ingram's most recent work apart is the addition of

mixed-media materials, such as gold and silver leaf, string, metallic thread and beeswax. These elements provide layers of complexity to the work, both aesthetically and conceptually.

Ingram's self-portraits capture his likeness in a specific emotional and psychological state of mind, at transitional times in his life, when, as the artist puts it, he is "leaving one world and pushing through to another." In other words: potent moments of being that his work so powerfully emanates to the viewer.

Ian Ingram was born in 1974 in Georgia and received an MFA from the University of Georgia. He lives and works in Austin, Texas. He is represented by Barry Friedman in New York, which recently presented his solo show, and he is currently featured in the New Art in Austin: 15 to Watch triennial exhibition at the Austin Museum of Art. A number of prominent collectors own his work, including Ron Pizzuti, Elton John, Howard and Judith Tullman, Sandy Besser and Turkish collector, Omer M. Koç. —KWT