

## **CHARLIE SCHAFFER: SCALPEL-LIKE EYES**

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

We live in a world where people feel guilty for not always doing something. People don't allow themselves to sit and just be. Due to the social and historical weight behind the idea of painting, people allow themselves to sit for a painting; although they are just sitting and talking to another person, the presence of the canvas and the artist (and all associated symbolism) permits them to sit in a room, twice a week, for many months, enabling a close relationship with another person. The (act of) painting is what allows this unique and quite intense relationship to form, and so the painting ends up being more a visual record of that experience rather than the point in and of itself.

"The Old Masters have always been incredibly important to me, especially The National Gallery. I have been going to the National Gallery at least once a week for ten years in order to either draw or paint directly from the pictures. There are two primary reasons for this: firstly, one can learn indefinitely about the 'game' of painting (i.e. composition, colour, line); secondly, the gallery is like a library to me - I know all the paintings, but I wander around in order to think, and a painting I have overlooked may then jump out at me due to what has been on mind as of late, and from there help and direct me in the direction I needed to go, but may not have consciously realised so."

### **ARTIST BIOGRAPHY**

Charlie Schaffer (born 1992, London) holds a Foundation Diploma from Central Saint Martins and a BA in Fine Art: Painting from Brighton University. He lives and works in London, UK.

In his final year of studying (2014) Schaffer was awarded the Lynn Painter-Stainer Young Artist Prize. That same year and in 2016 Schaffer appeared on Sky Arts' Portrait Artist of the Year. In 2016 Schaffer also won the Pastel Society Young Artist Award. In 2016, 2018 & 2019 won the Brian Botting Prize "for an artist aged 30 or under for an outstanding representation of the human figure". In 2019 Schaffer went on to win the prestigious BP Portrait Award with his painting entitled *Imara in her Winter Coat*.

Schaffer has exhibited extensively in London and Brighton post-graduation with galleries, via his prize wins and regularly as part of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters annual exhibition. Including at The Mall Galleries; The Royal College of Art; the National Portrait Gallery, Ashurst Gallery; Cello Factory; Pygmalion Fine Arts and as part of the Ruth Borchard Collection. Since his 2019 award win, Schaffer has dedicated himself purely to his practice, finally returning to the public eye May 2023 with the launch of his solo exhibition *Charlie Schaffer: Scalpel-Like Eyes*, a retrospective looking back at eight years of work.

Schaffer's work is held in many private collections internationally, and is also featured in the Lincoln's Inn Collection, the University of Bedfordshire Collection and the University of Leicester Collection.

### **Artist CV**