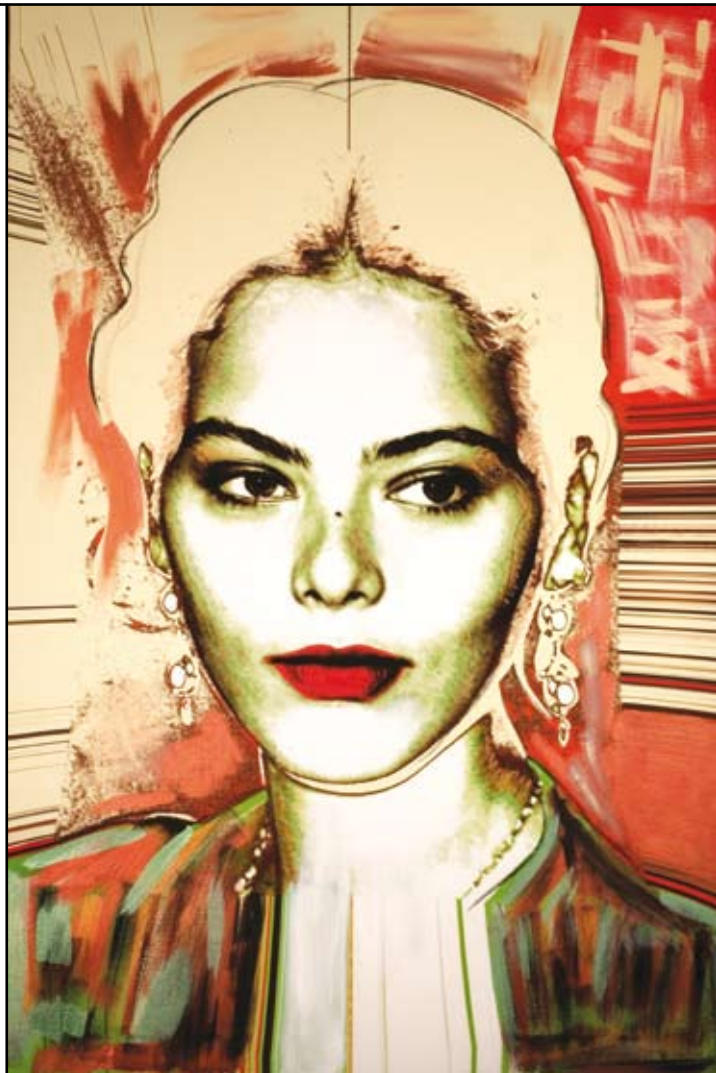


Press **PACK**



Ornella Muti

Mirco Braccini

presents

“STARS & STARS”

From 16th to 28th February 2010

Espace Beaurepaire

Press *PACK*

*M*irco Braccini, An Artist Who Travels in the Intimacy of the Being.

Mirco Braccini's artistic quest is intimately linked to the human - anchored in the expression of individuality, the unique, the exceptional. His painting is a tribute to his talent as a photographer; the two feed into each other, and combine to touch the souls of these Stars that he has convened here, from close up. Celebrities photographed in the 80's, reinterpreted here by the visual artist, in a universe inspired by pop art, but also baroque, always modern.

A close-up of well-known faces, the print on canvas is magnified by the steady paintbrush of Mirco Braccini, which luminously enriches these paintings, each one displaying a specific nature, a unique universe.

Rudolph Nureyev



Carole Bouquet

In pictures of impressive dimensions 1.5 x 1m techniques intermingle, overlay each other and enrich each other mutually in the hands of the visual artist, a master of colours and textures. Acrylic, oil pastels, charcoal; mixed artistic periods; an aesthetic and chromatic search, warm shades and rich lines; multi-coloured, Surrealist patterns, areas of solid colour.

With Mirco Braccini, the aesthete-photo reporter duality is fully embraced thanks to the mastery that he has of each of the disciplines. Having passed his Master of Graphic Arts diploma in 1977, he has been constantly searching for new techniques, which have driven him to evolve, follow the times, and perfect the skills he has gained as a visual artist and a media man. This way he can transpose the eye of the reporter into a pure artistic process, pushing the limits of the gaze and of reality. The close-up portraits laid out in this imposing format give one the impression of se- ►



Sammy Davis Junior

► eeing the models' souls up close.

The painting reveals what photographic film does not show, but which exists in the gaze of the artist; he cultivates the ambivalence of the status of stars, who are human, but a little more than that, without being idealised.

Painting thus provides an open field of interpretation. Each painting is a composition, in the aesthetic, stylistic and narrative sense of the term. The levels of interpretation overlay each other; each work sheds its layers.

For before plastic art work, there was photography, and before that, a meeting, a knot tied. As many personal histories as there are por-

traits. The cordial relationships that he has maintained with everyone enable Mirco Braccini to extract them from the myth, to bring them within our reach. In his own words, the thing that is extraordinary about all of them is this superior knowledge that they have of themselves, this intelligence to value themselves, to cultivate their talent to the extreme. Thus the painter not only depicts shooting stars, but also superb workhorses who are in love with their art. Perhaps this is what drove Mirco Braccini to exhibit himself: mourning a golden age of the world of showbusiness, leading figures who are too deep to be interchangeable.

The portrait of Luciano Pavarotti is abundant, festive, alive. The intelligent blend of warm colours – with red, green and gold dominating – and of genres – between Klimt and Calder – makes the work a true homage to the generous nature and mythical timber of the tenor. The lines of his face are outlined in oil pastel, an emphatic mask of the emotions that come out of the scintillating voice and body, to the point where the painting is almost sonic. A painter of the senses, he creates a portrait of Rudolf Nureyev that is almost carnal, so tactile is the painting; the grain of the skin, the cords of the velvet and tweed, in an all-over blue, in close-up. The hand gestures are at once shy and seductive during a discussion on a terrace in Milan, and all the fragile grace of the supernatural dancer shows through.

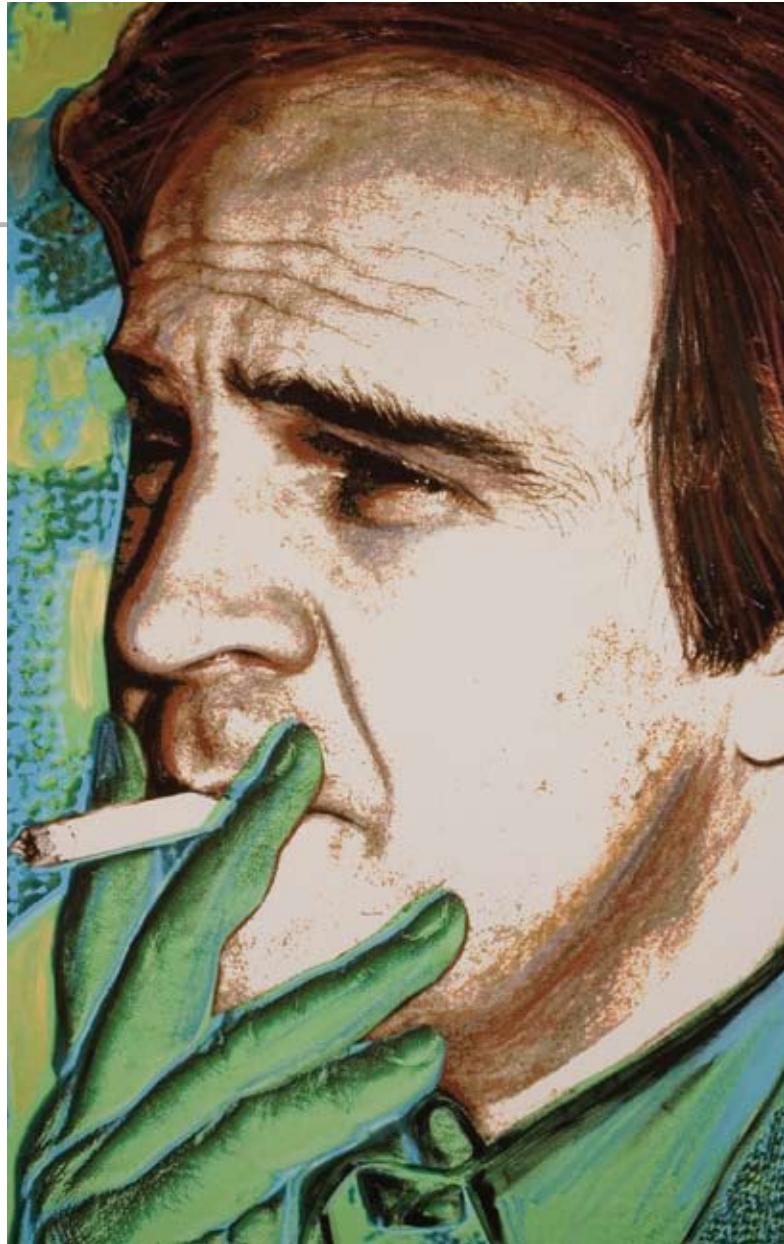
Socially aware figures meet up in the Braccini galaxy; Adriano Celentano is painted in a ►

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► spirit of irony. From his obvious admiration for the Italian rock star, and the charisma that emanates from the portrait — which is hard-won — the painter draws an affectionate sarcasm, by decking him out in the livery of an Italian Renaissance page boy. The solid green betrays his precocious ecological conscience, and the generous and clannish spirit of the singer-actor.

Two works stand out as humorous satires of the links between capitalism and politics, an echo of Roy Lichtenstein, a sort of game between art and reality. Jacques Chirac and Lino Ventura, in a frozen comic strip with moiré effects, are used as the high councillors of a world in crisis. Mirco Braccini photographed the President of the Republic during the 1981 election campaign. He managed to emphasise his optimism and his elegance in managing power, his talent for relaxing the tensest of atmospheres. As for Lino Ventura, with whom he rubbed shoulders during the filming of *Garde à Vue*, he is perceived in a dual way, thanks to the brotherly bond that has formed between them; the face with its hard lines, “sculpted out of stone”, without indulgence, hid an angel’s smile, a generosity and a certain naivety, and faith in a better future...

Among the striking themes of the work, femininity has a special place. There is a bust of Ornella Mutti, with a pure face,



François Truffaut

changed into a Venetian Baroque Madonna, and made pop by the glossy chromatic vibrations that invade the sobriety of the portrait. It also seems unfinished, constantly evolving. Fragility is embodied by Annie Girardot, with only her lips and gaze shot from above and intensified, in the middle of a print faded to the extreme, with muted colours, the modernity of a stylised representation. The way she is herself, mysterious, serious, passionate. We also meet Carole Bouquet and Françoise Hardy, but it is Monica Vitti’s burst of laughter, immortalised on coated film for a *mise en abyme* in the pure pop art spirit, which embodies the spirit of this exhibition: this ►



Françoise Hardy

► beauty, made solar, golden and intimate, becomes the perpetual recommencement of an instant of happiness.

The painter-photographer created this whole universe well ahead of time; deeply oriented towards others, attracted to these singular beings of whom he has painted portraits, through his collaboration with *Elle* and *Harper's Bazaar* among others, he has been in contact with these Stars that he loves to describe. Mirco Braccini sees himself as “a witness to the greatest stars of Hollywood's golden age, who had a strong influence on cinema and the artistic world”. For this exhibition he has selected strong personalities, extraordinary artists, mysterious beings, or solar beauties; they are the Stars invited by Mirco Braccini to this nostalgic and futuristic celebration •

«Stars & stars»,

Mirco Braccini

exhibition

In the 80's, Mirco Braccini saw everyone who was anyone in Hollywood parade before his lens. From film to canvas, his performance “Sensationnal Artificium Coloris” pays tribute to his talent as an artist. His technique, which is a cross between the baroque and modern styles, places the emphasis on the human, with the desire to get as close as possible to the souls of these Stars. For that matter, it is because of a desire for closeness that his paintings are of towering dimensions – the smallest

is 1.5m x 95cm. Mirco Braccini enriches his paintings by combining techniques, colours and textures, all for a result that is as chromatic as it is aesthetic.

Stars... on canvas

Photographer, visual artist and media man... Mirco Braccini is a curious man who can turn his hand to anything. His skills enable him to transpose the eye of the reporter into a pure artistic process, giving life to the myths that the celebrities painted here represent. ►

► From his meetings with his models to the paintings that he exhibits today, it's a long story, one of beautiful moments of exchange and complicity which have led these stars to unveil themselves. We can get close to their souls by looking at his paintings, as the precision of his lines gives us such a strong impression that they are alive. While each person interprets the works differently, no-one can fail to be moved by the emotion that radiates from these paintings.

The artist has painted art-lovers, who, as he admits, "all have this extraordinary thing about them, this superior knowledge that they have of themselves, this intelligence to value themselves, to cultivate their talent to the extreme". Nostalgic for the golden age of showbusiness, Mirco Braccini has chosen to revive it through his exhibition "Stars & Stars", where a collection of unique paintings is displayed.

Mirco Braccini, painter of the senses

In a stroke of his brush, Mirco Braccini is able to bring out the sensibilities of his models.

Thus, he paints his countryman, Italian rock star Adriano Celentano, in a spirit of irony. The colours bring out the singer's charisma and generous spirit.

In creating the portrait of Jaques Chirac, whom he met in 1981 during the election campaign, the artist manages to bring out

the elegance and optimism of the President of the Republic, through the use of moiré effects.

Women are also well represented in this exhibition. We admire a secretive, determined Françoise Hardy, who contrasts with Annie Girardot, shown in a print faded to the extreme to accentuate the fragility and sensitivity of the actress.

Mirco Braccini defines himself as "a witness to the greatest stars of Hollywood's golden age, who had a strong influence on cinema and the artistic world". To give this exhibition a character as exceptional as it is unique, he has selected portraits of incomparable personalities. These are extraordinary artists, mysterious figures, or solar beauties... these are the Stars, whom he has invited to this nostalgic and futuristic celebration.

Mirco Braccini Meets the Stars

Mirco Braccini has met the gaze of many people during his career as an international photographer. Sometimes seductive, melancholy, friendly or proud, the eyes of the stars that he has met are first and foremost the eyes of human beings. They are men and women who, as he admits, awoke a feeling of "nostalgia for his youth" within him. Where two paths meet, that of the artist and that of the model, a work is ►

► born. Mirco Braccini has vivid memories of each of these meetings.

Mirco Braccini talks to us about meeting...

... FRANCOIS TRUFFAUT

"When I knock on the door of François Truffaut's company; "Les films du Carrosse", I am greeted by a gentleman who has no preconceived ideas about my young age."

An intense, attentive man: these are the words that the artist uses to describe François Truffaut's personality.

... LINO VENTURA

"For a whole day, Lino took care of me. He came to fetch me at home so I could see him act on the set of "Garde a vue" (1981). He then took me for lunch with him. This is how, at lunchtime one day, I found myself sitting at the table opposite this actor whom I admired so much. He had a face of stone with the smile of an angel; he was a father figure."

The artist remembers Lino Ventura as a man who never tired of talking to him about Parma, the small Italian town where he came from.

... JEAN-PAUL BELMONDO

Meeting Bebel was a dream for the young

Mirco Braccini, a dream which came true.

"His smile still inspires joy and friendship in me. He is a dandy, a likeable dandy".

... LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

"I met Luciano Pavarotti when he was taking a break at the Farnese Theatre during rehearsals for "Rigoletto". He looked at me as if I were an old friend. He was by my side and he sung in a low voice, whistling."

Luciano Pavarotti was a simple man who loved life.

The portrait that Mirco Braccini has painted of Luciano Pavarotti is abundant, festive, alive. The clever mixture of colours gives a sonic quality to the painting to the point where we expect the tenor to surge forth from the canvas to perform one of those famous operas for us.

... ORNELLA MUTI

"I met Ornella Muti in Venice. She had the face of a Madonna. She was a young girl full of grace, kind and beautiful. When she was around me, she behaved as though we were old school friends".

The artist wants to pay homage to the purity of the actress. Her face is highlighted by glossy chromatic vibrations which give an unfinished look to this painting •

«Stars & Stars»,
from 16 to 28 February at Espace Beaurepaire
28 rue Beaurepaire, 75010 PARIS
to 10.30 a.m. at 7.00 p.m.
www.mircobraccinigallery.com



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Biography of

Mirco Braccini



Mirco Braccini Mirco Braccini is an artist and international photographer born on 30 January 1959 in Milan. In 1977, after obtaining his Master of Graphic Arts diploma, he became an assistant graphic artist for Alberto Nodolini, Artistic Director at Italian Vogue magazine. He was only 18 years old.

In 1979, he joined the Point de Vue Agency, where he would remain until 1988. At the same time, he worked for Elle magazine, in collaboration with journalist Anne Chabrol, as well as for Harper's Bazaar. It was his association with these major fashion magazines that enabled him to rub shoulders with celebrities from all around the world and take their portraits, including Françoise Hardy, Claudia Cardinale, Nancy Allen and more. His reputation precedes him and many celebrities call on his photographic talents, be they actors, singers, dancers or even politicians (Jacques Chirac, François Mitterrand...). Mirco Braccini then pursued a career as an international portrait artist.

In 1986, he did not hesitate to return to the National School of Photography in Arles to acquaint himself with new technologies. The renowned American music video director, Matt Mahurin, taught him the art of video production, which he would perfect in detail.

In between, he worked in collaboration with prestigious publications such as Cosmopolitan, Grazia, Max...

In 1988, his talent led him to the Leo Brak agency, for whom he worked on advertising campaigns for Deco by Dolce Gabbana, and Piano Piano Dolce Carlotta. He left the agency in 1992.

In 1995, he became the official photographer for the companies of the LVMH group. He signed his name across major campaigns for Berluti, Stefanobi, Hennessy, Céline and more.

In love with the image, he continued to perfect his skills by following video seminars and cameraman and sound technician training courses at Milan School of Cinema in 2004.

Today, the artist is at the head of Casthel Braccini, a communications agency. His passion for the image has naturally led him to express his talent in painting, which has brought him to present a few of his works at his exhibition "Stars & Stars", which will take place in Paris, from 16th to 28th February 2010.

SOS *Villages d'Enfants*

**The exhibition “ stars and stars ” by Mirco Braccini supports the
“ emergency relief for children in Haiti ” of SOS children’s village**

Mirco BRACCINI is one of these artists who Lives with a Lifelong Ambition and believes every children deserve the right to grow into a healthy and safe environment. independently of their cultural origins.

Artist, Painter, Humanist, Mirco BRACCINI is a father of 5 children of unexpected miscegenation for two of them : Italy-Nigeria, French Caribbean-Germany, into a harmonious recomposed family.

Poverty, unsafe social environment, frequent diseases, lack of schooling... generate a big risk of social exclusion. That’s why Mirco Braccini wants to provide his help in order to build a better world for children.

The dramatic situation of children in Haïti, has motivated Mirco Braccini to pay out 10% of the exhibition’s benefits « STARS & STARS » to « Emergency relief for children in Haïti » where the organization is based for 30 years.

Several french and international important

people support this measure to help haïtian children : Laurence Ferrari, Angelina Jolie, Liv Ulman, Princess Aga Khan...

SOS Children’s Villages is concerned about all children, particularly those who have no parental care and those whose families have to live in difficult conditions. The basis and aim of its work is to respect, promote and stand up for children’s rights.

Thanks to the commitment of SOS’s mother, the children can build a new life in a family house, in which they grow with their brothers and sisters. www.sosve.org

SOS’s village welcome more than 600 children into 13 SOS Children’s Villages and is a member of international federation SOS Kinderdorf, which is involved in 132 countries. It is in charge of more than 73 000 children and young people in 500 SOS Children’s villages and It helps almost 1000 school, educational, social and medical structures.

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