

# WHITE GIRLS

Jonathan Thomson's *White Girls* series of paintings address consumerism and the irresistible allure of commodity culture. They share the spirit of Warhol's screen printed celebrities, and are likewise influenced by commercial advertising and pop style simplification and employ a limited palette in order to present enticing artifice as glamour. They celebrate the triumph of advertising in creating value, channeling desire and crafting culture.

In the Nineteenth Century the aesthetic movement was characterized by the cult of the beautiful and an emphasis on the sheer pleasure to be derived from it. In painting there was a belief in the autonomy of art and in the concept of "Art for Art's Sake". James McNeill Whistler is widely seen as the visual artist whose work best embodies the principles of the nineteenth century aesthetic movement. The *White Girls* are a homage to the "Master" and are indebted to his clear and incisive observations on the nature and power of art.

The *White Girls* are all nude as an expression of the eternal feminine. In all of these works the flattening of the image and its strict delineation through flowing line reduces the female body to a series of stylized lines without colour, shading or tone.

Eroticism is the most direct and immediate way of captivating the senses and it is through the senses that we understand the aesthetics of beauty, rather than through either the rational and conceptual knowledge of science and philosophy or the structures and systems of ethics and morality. More than any other subject, the nude signifies "Art". It is not just one subject among many, but is the central subject. The nude is a canon of perfection, an expression of universal and eternal values.

The exhibition of the *White Girls* in Hong Kong in 2010 caused a sensation and prompted extensive public debate about art and censorship in Hong Kong.

A full colour 54 page case bound catalogue with extended essays by Jonathan Thomson and Ian Findlay Brown is available.



Jonathan Thomson  
White Girls Korkos Gallery Hong Kong  
2010  
Installation View



Jonathan Thomson  
White Girls Korkos Gallery Hong Kong  
2010  
Installation View



Jonathan Thomson  
Large Nude 4  
2008  
Oil and Gesso on Canvas  
120 x 160 cm



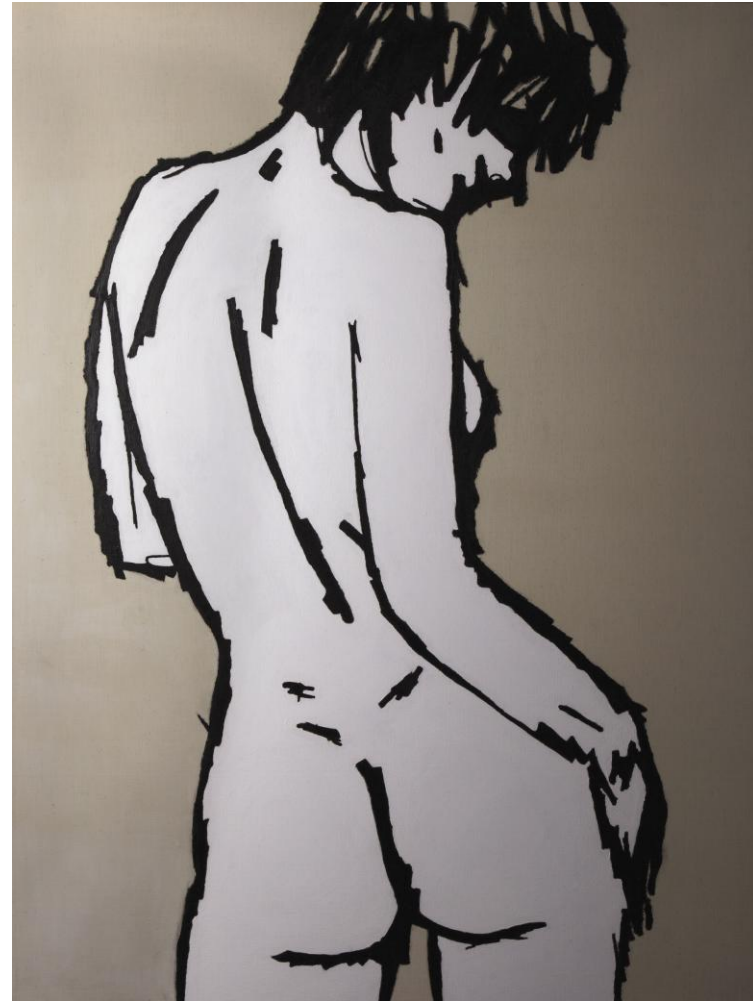
Jonathan Thomson  
Large Nude 12  
2008  
Oil and Gesso on Canvas  
160 x 120 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Large Nude 9  
2008  
Oil and Gesso on Canvas  
160 x 120 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Large Nude 10  
2008  
Oil and Gesso on Canvas  
160 x 120 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Large Nude 13  
2009  
Oil and Gesso on Canvas  
160 x 120 cm





Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0051  
2009  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0060  
2009  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0044  
2009  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0038  
2008  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm





Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0047  
2009  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0041  
2008  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0050  
2009  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0059  
2009  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm





Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0054  
2009  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0003  
2007  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0056  
2009  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm



Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0023  
2008  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
40 x 30 cm





Jonathan Thomson  
Nude 0052  
2009  
Oil, Permanent Marker and Gesso on Board  
30 x 40 cm



FOR ADDITIONAL IMAGES AND LIST OF  
AVAILABLE WORKS PLEASE CONTACT JONATHAN  
THOMSON