History? Painting.

Paintings about Films about Painters by Dave Evans

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In the Salons and Academies of nineteenth century Europe the History Painters were the stars of every show. They painted the biggest subjects on the biggest canvases (so big that in France they were known as 'pompiers', firemen, because they spent so much time up ladders). These days it's the film-makers who get the big budgets and the widescreen canvases. And if painting has (on the whole) become somewhat more domestic in scale the lives of artists themselves have become a subject of the cinema.

Here then are some paintings about films about painters. Films that (sometimes) mangle the history of art and (sometimes) mangle the life of the artist and sometimes get it spot on ...

Atrium Gallery, The Watermark, Erme Court, Leonards Rd, Ivybridge, PL21 0SZ

November 2nd 2013 to Jan 5th 2014

See more of my work at www.thepicturepalace.co.uk



'Rembrandt' Acrylic on canvas 24" x 18"

£240.00

Probably the earliest and one of the best known 'biopics' of a famous artist. Charles Laughton plays Rembrandt from youthful success to a doddery old age.

1936 Director: Alexander Korda Cinematography: Georges Périnal



'The Rebel' Acrylic on canvas 28" x 24"

 $\pounds 275.00$

Tony Hancock goes to Paris to pursue his artistic ambitions and starts his own 'Infantilist' school of painting championed by the leader of the Parisian existentialists, the enigmatic 'Jim Smith' (Dennis Price).

1961 Director: Robert Day Cinematography: Gilbert Taylor



'The Agony and the Ecstasy' Acrylic on canvas 36" x 24"

£350.00

Charlton Heston plays it straight as Michelangelo Buonarotti, tussling with Rex Harrison's Pope Julius II over the Sistine Chapel's colour scheme. Visually the film is pure 19th century Romanticism and owes almost as much to Caspar David Friedrich as it does to Michelangelo himself.

1965 Director: Carol Reed Cinematography: Leon Shamroy



'Andrei Rublev' Acrylic on canvas 36" x 24"

£380.00

One of the masterpieces of world cinema. Andrei Tarkovsky makes a film about Russia's most celebrated medieval religious painter, in glorious black and white widescreen.

1966 Director: Andrei Tarkovsky Cinematography: Vadim Yusov



'Edvard Munch' Acrylic on canvas 24" x 18"

£210.00

Peter Watkins is one of Britain's most celebrated writer directors, not that one would know it in this country. 'Edvard Munch' was made for Norwegian TV in 1974 and is widely regarded as a truly innovative and powerfully insightful piece of film-making.

1974 Director: Peter Watkins Cinematography: Odd-Geir Sæther



'Caravaggio' Acrylic on canvas 36" x 24"

£360.00

Derek Jarman's typically transgressive take on the truly eventful life of Michaele Caravaggio, painter, lover, murderer and latterly, gay icon.

1986 Director: Derek Jarman Cinematography: Gabriel Beristain



'Carrington' Acrylic on canvas 36" x 24"

£350.00

Biopics of women artists are, unfortunately predictably, a rarity, and gravitate towards the tragic heroine rather than celebrating the accomplished artist. 'Carrington' is no exception but is redeemed by a fine performance from Emma Thompson.

1995 Director: Christopher Hampton Cinematography: Denis Lenoir



'Love is the Devil' Acrylic on canvas 36" x 24"

£350.00

It is difficult to represent the activity of painting on film, doubly so when the estate of the artist won't allow any of his works to appear in the film. John Maybury's answer was experimental sequences that approximated the fragmented viewpoints in Francis Bacon's work.

1998 Director: John Maybury Cinematography: John Mathieson



'Girl With a Pearl Earring' Acrylic on canvas 36" x 24"

£380.00

The painting of the film of the book of the painting. Colin Firth's Vermeer paints Scarlett Johansson, his fictional maid and muse. Finding time to demonstrate the camera obscura along the way. Now we know how he did it.

2003 Director: Peter Webber Cinematography: Eduardo Serra



'Goya's Ghosts' Acrylic on canvas 36" x 24"

£360.00

Stellan Skarsgård in his painting hat battles the Spanish Inquisition and explains to Javier Bardem why a portrait that includes the hands is more expensive. Hands are difficult to paint for any artist, even Goya.

2006 Director: Milos Forman Cinematography: Javier Aguirresarobe

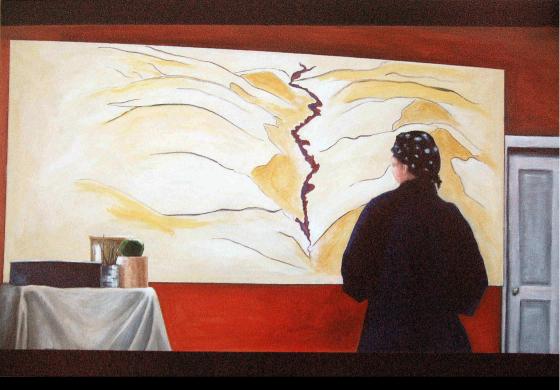


'Nightwatching' Acrylic on canvas 36" x 24"

£370.00

Peter Greenaway's first film 'The Draughtsman's Contract' was a murder mystery involving a seventeenth century artist. Here Martin Freeman's Rembrandt paints 'The Nightwatch', which it transpires contains clues to a similar crime.

2007 Director: Peter Greenaway Cinematography: Reinier Van Brummelen



'Georgia O'Keeffe' Acrylic on canvas 36" x 24"

£350.00

A US 'Lifetime' channel TV movie with Joan Allen as O'Keeffe and Jeremy Irons as her husband Alfred Stieglitz. For all its inaccuracies and limitations a biopic that actually shows a woman artist at work (although I had to manipulate things somewhat to get an image I could work from).

2009 Director: Bob Balaban Cinematography: Paul Elliott Information and contact details:

These paintings were created using reference from individual frames of the films featured and not from publicity or production 'stills'.

Wherever possible the original aspect ratio of the film's cinema release has been adhered to in the painting (hence the 'letterboxing' of some images). This has not been possible in all cases however and apologies are owed to the directors and cinematographers concerned (if not from me then from whoever 'panned and scanned' the tele-cine transfer).

For the duration of the exhibition all works are for sale via The Watermark (tel: 01752 892220) and thereafter direct from the artist.

For further information, more work for sale or to inquire about a commissision visit:

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