

Introduction

As an admirer of female nudity, whether it be on canvas or in the flesh, I cannot but praise the art of Nicolas Granger-Taylor. The first picture of his that I saw was at my picture framers and Mr Granger-Taylor was there choosing its gilded raiment. We spoke briefly but the image of his painting, a small picture of a young woman reclining in some abandonment, lingered in my memory as much for its subject as its wonderful execution. It was several months later that I managed to visit his studio in remote Balham where I saw other remarkable paintings; portraits, studies of still life and of course, his beautiful paintings of models *en désabillé*. These are all subjects many painters attempt but few with such brilliance as possessed by Mr Granger-Taylor. I immediately bought two pictures and it was a difficult choice. Preening myself a little on having "discovered" a new and gifted artist I only found out later, and by accident, that his works are in a number of distinguished collections: two still lifes worthy of William Nicholson in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire and a magnificent nude owned by the actor Steve Martin. His figures have great presence and nobility and in some cases, I venture to say, are better than the real thing.

Barry Humphries CBE

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Dedicated to my mother and champion,
Jacqueline Granger-Taylor (1933-2009),
in loving memory and eternal gratitude.

Nicolas Granger-Taylor
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