

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

NEW·YORK·SOCIAL·DIARY

YOUR LINK TO SOCIETY

Wednesday, May 7, 2014. Yesterday was another beautiful Spring day in New York, sunny and bright.

More artists, more exhibitions. Last night at the new Leila Heller Gallery on 43 West 57th Street, there was a preview of a new exhibition: *LOOK AT ME: Portraiture from Manet to the Present*” curated by **Beth Rudin DeWoody** and **Paul Morris**, a founding director of the Armory Show.

The show was of particular interest to me because Beth and I are old friends. We’ve known each other since she was fresh out of college. Her interest in art and collecting was already apparent, in retrospect although in the early days she was feeling her way into the process. I don’t know that it was intentional, but then she married an artist — **James DeWoody**, with whom she had her son **Carlton** and daughter **Kyle** — and about that time her interest began to develop into the connoisseurship that belongs to her today.

In all the years that we’ve known each other well, we’ve never discussed this business of her life work, which is: Collecting. She is now a notable collector in the art world, and not accidentally has she been compared to **Peggy Guggenheim**. What I always knew about her even before she became a committed collector was that she is a great and natural nurturer of talent. I have personally benefited from that nurturing as have many others.

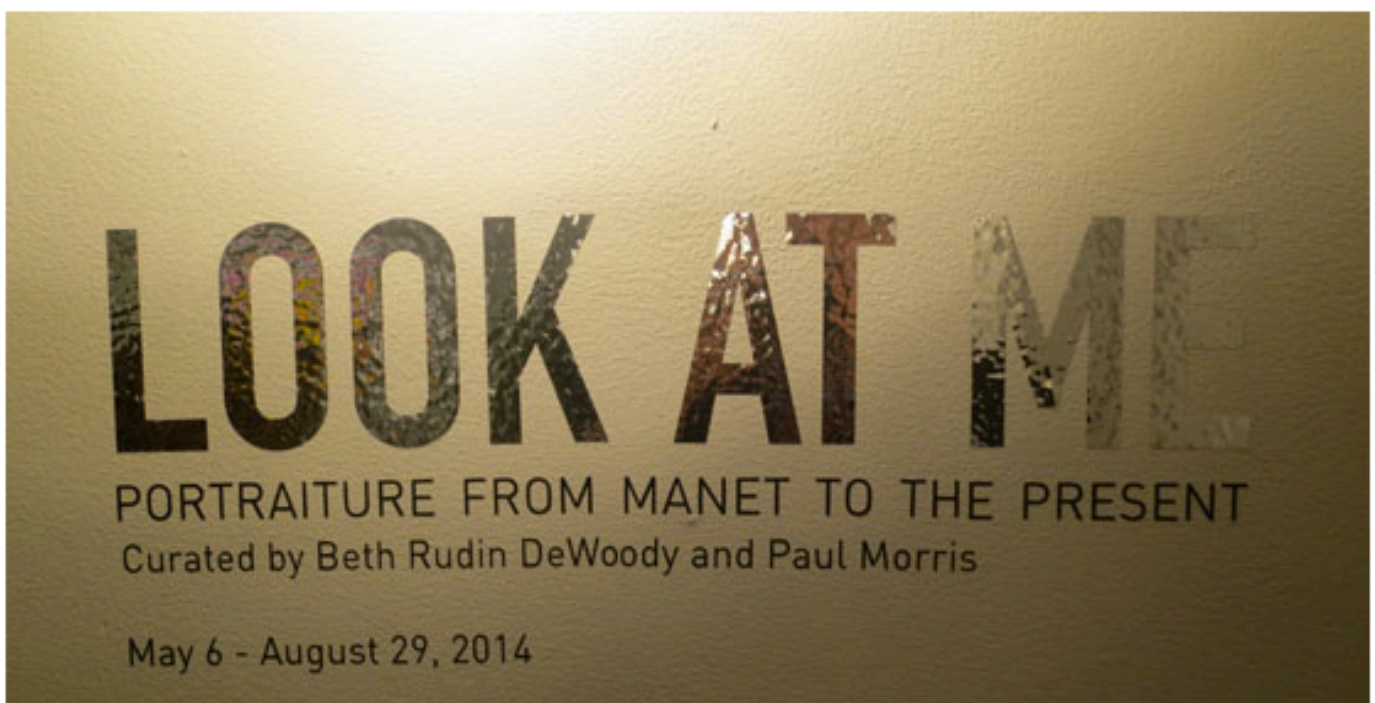
Beth loves talented people. She is by nature in their thrall. This show that she curated with Paul Morris is a clear reflection of that thrall of hers. The subject, the subjects, the artists and the attitudes are all aspects of the



Warhol's *Blue Jackie*, 1964

lady's vivid artistic interest.

This is a new gallery for Leila Heller, who is now also an old friend and whom I met through Beth DeWoody about twenty-five years ago. Leila, who is also the mother of two growing sons, has been in the gallery business for a number of years. In the last several years she has been expanding her interest and business. The Fifty-seventh Street location, now her second in the city, is big – eight floors. **Thomas Arnold** will lead the new gallery. Arnold comes from 14 years with Mary Boone Gallery where he managed 150 exhibitions.



This debut exhibition is ambitious and includes works by many renowned artists, including: **Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Henri Matisse, Fernand Léger, Pablo Picasso, Willem de Kooning, Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, Tom Wesselmann, Francesco Clemente, Eric Fischl, Mitra Tabrizian, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Firooz Zahedi, Jack Pierson, John Currin, Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman, George Condo, Loretta Lux, Marilyn Minter, Ai Wei Wei, Youssef Nabil, Iké Udé, Farideh Lashai, Shoja Azari, Rachel Lee Hovnanian, Josh Azzarella, Reza Aramesh.**

The exhibition includes many seminal works, including Warhol's "Blue Jackie," "Bill" by **Elaine de Kooning** and "Peintre et son Modele" by Picasso.

The show runs through August 29th and if you like portraiture, this *delivers*. I loved it, although I've got to go back and spend some time taking it all in.



An early Renoir sketch of a portrait of a lady in her garden.



A Picasso.



Co-curator Paul Morris and Patty Caparaso.



That's Leila Heller squeezed into the elevator about to close.



Bob Colacello.



Mary Cassatt and a Warhol Elizabeth Taylor.



Andy Warhol in the kitchen of Elaine's restaurant with Elaine.



Chevy Chase, Dan Aykroyd, and John Belushi with Lorne Michaels (in the early days of SNL) also in Elaine's kitchen.



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