



"Facing the Demons"

Portrait of Ben Cousins for entry into the 2009 Doug Moran Portrait Prize

Oil on Linen, 152x123 cm

Referencing German Renaissance Artist Durer's "St Michael Battling the Dragons"

Artist's Statement by Megan Roodenrys

31st December 2008

"After having Ben model for me late August this year, in a time of uncertainty and self-examination in his life, then later observing the media feeding-frenzy surrounding his fate as a professional footballer, I decided to paint this large scale portrait. A face over-exposed, perception far from who he really is. An invasion of a personal journey and space, we are forced into his intimate space and his image is forced into ours by a hungry media machine. A public perception that does not convey a true sense of who this person is and the decisions that he has had to make.

In the background, I have included works of the German Renaissance artist – Durer – "St Michael Battling the Dragon".

This is about a personal battle with your own demons and a private battle that becomes part of the public domain."

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