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artthatmatters.gallery | management@spannenburg.art | +31621892151



RESEARCH & PROCESS

The Martyrdom of Beauty: Assessing Saint Sebastian as a Gay Icon in Visual Arts

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> *Saint Sebastian's transformation from a Roman soldier to a queer icon is a testament to the power of aesthetic reinvention. In this article Arjan Spannenburg tracks his journey from Renaissance anatomical ideals in Mantegna's work to the sensual ecstasy found in Sodoma. It concludes with Arjan Spannenburg's contemporary photographic approach, which replaces physical arrows with the psychological weight of identity, offering a modern sanctuary for the "hidden life" and the resilience of the queer experience.*

SUMMARY

Saint Sebastian's transformation from a Roman soldier to a queer icon is a testament to the power of aesthetic reinvention. In this article Arjan Spannenburg tracks his journey from Renaissance anatomical ideals in Mantegna's work to the sensual ecstasy found in Sodoma. It concludes with Arjan Spannenburg's contemporary photographic approach, which replaces physical arrows with the psychological weight of identity, offering a modern sanctuary for the "hidden life" and the resilience of the queer experience. To truly grasp the significance of Saint Sebastian in visual arts, one must first look beyond the arrows and into the eyes of a figure t…

NEW WORKS

• SAINT SEBASTIAN

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ART EXPANDS HORIZONS AND PERSPECTIVES.

Art should have an impact

The Silent Power of Vulnerability

Arjan Spannenburg (¼ 1978Spaêðœ»ÞuÄgËM7È×å®vU°ÊÆ°Ïj¨ùŠ‰€»qÁãÃ (¼ «ý• ê hT„¢"

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Gallery Representation & Exhibitions In addition to permanent representation by ZERP Galerie (Rotterdam), Spannenburg’s oeuvre has been selected for prestigious international platforms and events, including:

• PAN Amsterdam

• Kunstlinie, Almere

• Schwules Museum, Berlin

• Paratissima, Italia

• Tongerlohuys, Roosendaal

His works are held in diverse private collections and are often seen in prominent public locations, including the City Hall of The Hague.



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ART THAT MATTERS
Sole Proprietorship
Hendrik Werkmanstraat 79
1328DK, Almere
Flevoland
The Netherlands
CoC: 52015661 (NLD)
VAT: NL001419428B24