ART THAT MATTERS
by Spannenburg.Art

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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 understand the prominence of Saint Sebastian within the visual arts, one must first look past the arrows and into the eyes of a…

ARTWORKS

- SAINT SEBASTIAN

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GALLERY ONLINE



ART OPENS PEOPLES EYES AND MINDS.

Art should have an impact

The Silent Power of Vulnerability

Die outonome werk van Arjan Spannenburg (gebore Texel, 1978) resoneer internasionaal met kurators en private versamelaars eweknie. Sentraal tot sy fotografie is die soeke na identiteit en selfuitdrukking. Deur kragtige, oorwegend monochrome komposisies, beeld Spannenburg jeug uit wat op die drumpel van volwassenheid staan.

Ons sien tieners in 'n verbygaande, onsekere lewensfase. Hierdie sensitiewe portrette vang onderwerpe vas, alleen met hul gedagtes, tog straal hulle gelyktydig 'n diepe behoefte aan kommunikasie met die buitewêreld uit, 'n soeke na ondersteuning, begrip en liefde.

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

• PAN Amsterdam

• Kunstlinie, Almere

• Schwules Museum, Berlin

• Paratissima, Italy

• 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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