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THE FEMALE NUDE FROM A POST-POP PERSPECTIVE

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From Michelangelo to Tracey Emin, the mesmerising curve of the female nude has transfixed artists throughout history. To strike that balance of sexuality, nature, honesty and power: it's a difficult line to tread. A mirror's edge. And it's just been given the Parra treatment...

Dutch post-pop artist Parra's signature style can be found plastered on skateboards, emblazoned on T-shirts, towering above passers-by on buildings, and even sitting in our own office at CODE. Parra is no stranger to giant projects either, since in 2012 he painted a 60 ft mural at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. But his latest solo exhibition in New York doesn't just take on The Big Apple, but also the female form – a subject which has rippled through the annals of art history. The theme is nothing new for his work, but in the past an animal or bird has always been part of the story. Not anymore.

Joshua Liner Gallery



The work featured in No Work Today is a marriage of Parra's voluptuous shape-style with the sensual curves of the naked woman. It includes twelve works on canvas, ink drawings, and sculpture. Faceless bodies weave in and out of one another like a liquid jigsaw. Both sexuality and inactivity interplay as passionate reds and blues depict a woman relaxing on her day off. Although he may not say it himself, this is an artist maturing. He is applying the same hand he put to skate graphics and posters, to the complexity of the female form – injecting a modern, post-pop twist.

Lichtenstein and Wesselmann may come to mind, but Parra is also very much his own beast. "The new show of Parra looks amazing. You can even see other artists that take inspiration and sometimes copy his work. There is probably no bigger form of admiration," say Avant Arte, the tinder for art-lovers mobile app and 380k + Instagram platform for contemporary art. We could not agree more.

Parra's No Work Today opens at The Joshua Liner Gallery in New York on 17 November 2016 until 17th December 2016.

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