

ART+ AUCTION

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Self-portrait painted by Jacob Collins

The Power of Tradition

Modernism may reign, but the little institute that could—the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America—continues its patient uphill chug-chugging, carrying a millennium’s worth of traditional design tenets. One of the primary engineers fueling this I-think-I-can mission is ICA&CA board member and artist Jacob Collins, who in September launched the Grand Central Academy of Art in New York City. Teaching the principles of classical realism (students undergo intensive training in life drawing and other disciplines that trace back to the Renaissance), the academy complements the institute’s myriad other programs educating the design community and the general public about the relevance of the traditional arts. Collins’s own aims as an artist are no less ambitious. As he wrote in the catalogue text accompanying a recent show of his nudes at Hirschl & Adler, he strives “to paint with the skills of past masters while still feeling fresh.” Although many attempt to buck modernism’s strong attraction, only the truly powerful—and talented—can pull it off.

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