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# • nellie castan gallery

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PRESS RELEASE

## ***Annette Bezor: Mirror Face***

**29 April – 21 May 2006**

**Annette Bezor's** trademark symbol, the female portrait, continues to exude power and challenge the notion of the male gaze. Addressing issues of female sexuality and gender through the manipulation of iconic female portraits, **Bezor** draws from both the long history of art and contemporary culture.



In *Mirror Face* subtle changes can be seen in **Bezor's** contemplation of the 'face' we present to the world; that reflects our perception of ourselves, altogether different from the views others have of us. In these new paintings, **Bezor's** women continue to confront the gaze of the viewer but are more introspective, pensive, suggesting 'inner turmoil beneath the smooth face.'<sup>1</sup>

Isolated from their original contexts (and bodies) and presented at alarmingly close range, **Bezor's** facial compositions become like large, curious landscapes. As portraits, they subtly suggest a series of observations on desire, female sexual expression and the objectifying role of the male gaze. By harnessing our impulsive response to cultural idols, Bezor creates a forceful visual interrogation of modern conventions of originality, social identity and beauty.

'Formally and conceptually, Bezor's work can be classed as surrealistic and it builds on traditions that date back to the halcyon days of Surrealism in the 1930s in the way it reveals the artist's psychological state ... The great power of Bezor's work here is in drawing the viewer into an engagement with the inner self.'<sup>2</sup>

Short-listed for the 2005 Archibald Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and featured in this years Taipai Art Fair, **Bezor** has exhibited in numerous group exhibitions including the Grand Palais, Paris; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; ARCO International Art Fair, Madrid. Her work is in many public and private collections, including National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; ICI Collection. This is her second solo exhibition at Nellie Castan Gallery.

1, 2 Chris Reid 2006, catalogue essay

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level 1, 12 river street, south yarra, victoria 3141  
**opening: 5 – 7pm Saturday 29 April**  
exhibition ends: sunday 21 may  
hrs: tuesday to sunday 12–5pm t: 03 9804 7366

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