

SALOME

& John the Baptist

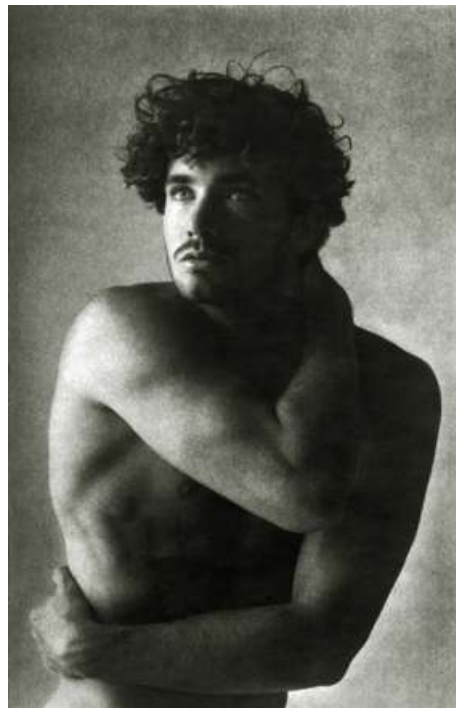


Joanna Chrobak, Salome, oil on canvas, 2007

International artists: Luigi CASALINO, Joanna CHROBAK, Marek KOCZELA, Michael KUCH, Aleksandra NOWAK, Rafal OLBINSKI, Franciszek STAROWIEYSKI, David VANCE, and Gustaw ZEMLA

May 19th - July 8th, 2007

Opening Reception, Saturday, May 19th, 7 - 10 pm.



David Vance, John the Baptist, archival giclee, 2007

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Gustaw Zemla, Head of John the Baptist, bronze, 1990

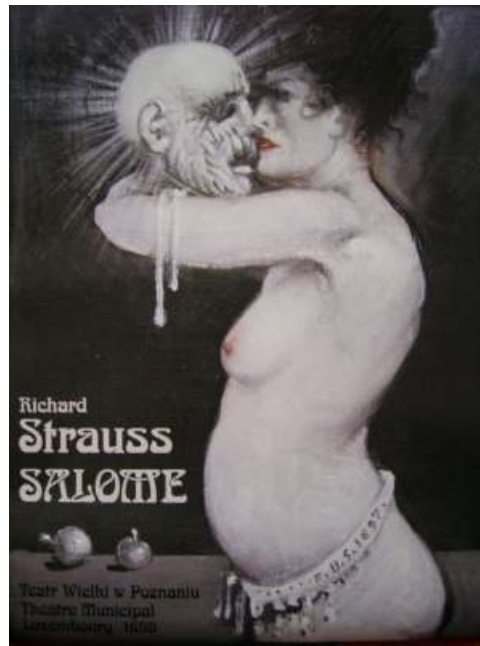


Aleksandra Nowak, Salome, oil on canvas, 2007



Luigi Casalino, Salome, aquatint, mezzotint, etching, 2007
 “J’Ai Baise Ta Bouche, Jokanaan, J’Ai Baise Ta Bouche”
 from “Salome”, a tragedy in one act, by Oscar Wilde

The story of Salome and John the Baptist was one of the favorite motives for painters, draftsmen, and sculptors, since it offers a chance to depict exotic scenery of the East, semi-nude woman dancing, the splendour of oriental court, and everything under the auspices of being a Biblical subject. The earliest examples can be seen in Musée de Augustins in Toulouse (12th C.), famous Italians include: Giotto’s *Feast of Herod* (1320), Lorenzo Monaco’s *The Banquet of Herod* (c.1400), Masaccio’s *The Beheading of St. John the Baptist* (1426). But the most famous interpretations of Salome include paintings by Titian *Salome with the Head of John the Baptist*, ca. 1530, and two Caravaggio paintings from 1605: *Salome with the Head of the Baptist*, and *Beheading of the Baptist*. From Northern-European painters the most interesting are pieces by: Memling *St. John Altarpiece* (15th C.), Dürer *The Beheading of St. John* (1510), now in Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Lucas Cranach the Elder *Salome* (c.1530), and by Rembrandt *The Beheading of John the Baptist* (1640), now in the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The subject was very popular in 19th C.. French Symbolist master, Gustave Moreau, painted it three times: *Salome dancing before Herod*, *The Apparition*, and *Salome*, all in the 1870’s. *Salome* by Henri Regnault (1870) is now in Metropolitan Museum of Art collection. Franz von Stuck painted his *Salome* in 1906, Gustav Klimt in 1907-09. British artist, Aubrey Beardsley made illustrations for Oscar Wilde’s play *Salome*, which premiered in Paris in 1896. The play, translated into German, was used by Richard Strauss for his famous opera *Salome* (premiered in 1905).



Franciszek Starowieyski, Richard Strauss Salome

And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee; And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom. And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her. And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother. And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb. Mark 6:21-29



Rafal Olbinski, Richard Strauss Salome, The Philadelphia Opera



Michael Kuch, Baptist served on His own halo, 2007

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