

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 12 works on show
March 29 – May 5, 2007
Jonathan O'Hara Gallery
41 E. 57th St., Suite 1302
New York, NY 10022
(212) 644-3533

SHOW LOCATION NEW YORK, NY



BRENDA ZLAMANY

The art of seeing

Spending much of her time as one of the official portrait artists for *The New York Times*, Brenda Zlamany usually finds herself painting important political and cultural figures. However, for this new solo exhibition, Zlamany is drawing inward and focusing on images of her family.

"The exhibition is titled *Facing Family* and includes self portraits as well as portraits of my daughter, my mother and my father," says Zlamany. "These are special to me and I never thought I would be showing them.

They were not made with an eye for the art world."

Working with *The New York Times*, Zlamany was often called on to do some of the more difficult and challenging portraits, including ones of both Osama bin Laden and Slobodan Milosevic. In these more personal works, Zlamany is finding that knowing the subject on a deeper, more individual level gives the artist a much wider ability to create narrative and context within the portrait.

"With strangers, you have to

fabricate a relationship with them and create a fantasy of who that person is," says Zlamany. "But with these paintings, they served as a way to get deeper relationships with these people, especially my parents. My mother was a beauty queen, Miss New York in the 1950s, so with a portrait like hers it has to be good because there are issues involved bigger than the individual sitter."

In creating these portraits, Zlamany is ever-conscious of the way a viewer's eye moves across the canvas and uses this understanding to create a sort of movie through the composition and design of each painting.

"I want to bring back the painting to being a visual event, to show them how to use their eyes and understand how the composition tells a story," says Zlamany. "I saw the Da Vinci painting *Lady with the Ermine* and it was amazing how this whole erotic story gradually unfolds when you really look at the painting and think about reading the painting rather than just looking at it." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to

www.americanartcollector.com

◀ PORTRAIT #69 (PINK BRAT),
OIL ON PANEL, 12 X 12"

▶ PORTRAIT #80 (MOM),
OIL ON PANEL, 36 X 24"



