

THEWEEK

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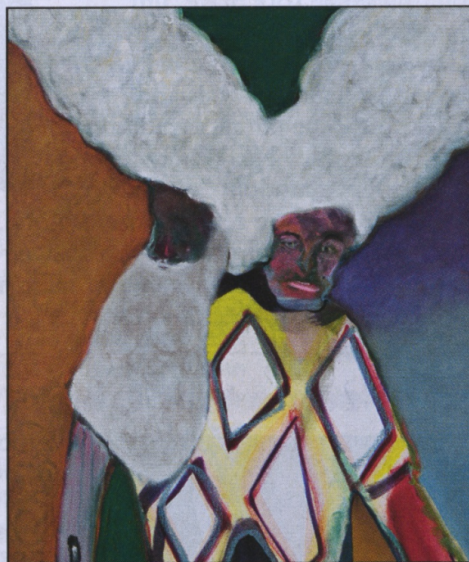
The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery

Ryan Mosley

at Alison Jacques

Ryan Mosley's talent has been widely discussed since he graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2007. Now aged 33, Mosley demonstrates in this show that he hasn't betrayed his former promise. The works here deal with previously visited themes – skulls, carnivalesque characters-cum-outsiders – all distanced from the viewer by being linked to a series of absurdities. In *Audubon's Last Aviary*, a beard doubles as a torso, itself inside a skull; in *The Educationalist*, a figure is shown made from bananas.

There are quotes from art history – *Exodus* shows two figures wrestling with a knotted pipe, which brings to mind the ancient Greek statue of Laocoön; *Insinuation* has a figure in profile that could have come from Toulouse-Lautrec. But what makes



Headswill (2014): oil on linen, 100cm x 80cm, £12,500 (excl. tax)

Mosley's work so compelling is the breadth and agility of his imagination. He layers figures upon figures, and the faces and other surprising details that he places inside the object he depicts lend his paintings an unexpected intensity. Prices from £5,000.

16-18 Berners Street, London W1
(020-7631 4720). Until 15 March.