



CLAIRE TABOURET IN HER OWN (ENGLISH) WORDS

Photography by Elizabeth Young

The paintings you can see in Elizabeth's photographs are part of a new series I started in September. This series is named *Les débutantes*, after the Bal des Débutantes, where, each year, young rich girls are presented to Society. It is a continuation from my large group portraits of children. The children have grown up a bit, are now teenagers, and I am interested to represent what can be seen as a rite of passage. A ritual.

As I said in a previous interview when I was talking about another recent work, *The Big Straight Jacket*, in which individuals resist disappearing into an anonymous mass: "There's always a struggle between opposing forces, between the fascination for immersion and the terror of engulfment."

In *Les débutantes*, the dresses that they are wearing are all linked one to another. There is an excess of clothing, drapery, princess attire, which by its excess becomes terrifying. Each girl is an individual, a painting of her own. The painting could be cut into lots of individual portraits. The way I paint their faces, the way they look at us in a rebellious way, emphasizes the idea that we have to fight to remain an individual in the face of pressure from the group.

clairetabouret.com

Dans les bois, 2013. Acrylique sur toile,
170 x 230 cm. Collection privée.

IDP

