

Hans Theys

FREE-WHEELING ON A HORSE

An overheard conversation between an elderly lady and a young, handsome man

Elderly lady: Mmm. I love it.

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: I heard Swennen's previous show was also magnificent.

Young man: (Picking his nose.) Mmm.

Elderly lady: I've always loved the paintings of Derk Thijs

Young man: Yeah.

Elderly lady: Yeah.

Young man: (With a finger on his chin.) And still...

Elderly lady: Yes...

Young Man: I read that Swennen tries to paint whatsoever.

Elderly lady: Does he?

Young man: Mmm...

Elderly lady: (Adjusting a lock of hair.) I wouldn't have thought so.

Young man: The end justifies the means.

Elderly lady: The end being a painting?

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: As opposed to an image?

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: I also heard that Thijs is trying to introduce little characters in his paintings.

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: Without becoming anecdotic, narrative or decorative.

Young man: I see.

Elderly lady: Mmm.

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: They say Swennen asked for the neons to be replaced by softer ones.

Young man: Did he?

Elderly lady: They say so.

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: ...

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: This exhibition makes me think of Stephen Leacock's comparison between a horse and a bicycle.

Young man: I see...

Elderly lady: Leacock observes that the pedals of a horse don't allow for a comfortable circular pedalling movement.

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: He adds that free-wheeling on a horse is an extraordinary experience.

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: Yes.

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: Apparently this is what Swennen is looking for in his paintings...

Young man: I see.

Elderly lady: That's what I read.

Young man: Mmm.

Elderly lady: Free-wheeling on a horse...

Young man: Mmm.

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