

ZEUXIS

AN ASSOCIATION OF STILL LIFE PAINTERS



Reflections

Zeuxis is a grassroots organization of painters formed in 1995 to explore the contemporary possibilities of the still life. For their latest exhibition titled *Reflections*, Zeuxis artists and their guests have each agreed to produce a still life incorporating a reflecting object. The nature of the reflection—its surface (likely a mirror, though possibly glass or silverware) and the image reflected (still life objects, a window, or even a self-portrait)—was determined by each individual artist.

Reflections have long intrigued painters, and served them in various ways. Jan van Eyck, for his own mysterious purposes, famously placed a convex mirror in the background of his double portrait *The Arnolfini Wedding* (1434). The Dutch still life painter Pieter Claesz conjured images of worldly opulence in the minutely rendered reflections of silver and glassware; the reproduction above is a detail from his *Vanitas Still Life* of ca. 1628. In his celebrated *Las Meninas* (1656), Velázquez framed King Philip IV and his queen in another mirror, placing them at a poignant remove from the lively exchange amongst the other figures. In modern times, Bonnard and Matisse employed the worlds-within-worlds of mirrors to dramatize the visual paradoxes and dramas of light and space. And spanning these eras is another, enduring characteristic. It symbolizes the inquiry behind the act of painting—itself a reflection, invariably, of an individual's encounter with the human experience.

For more information about *Reflections* or Zeuxis, please contact Phyllis Floyd at 212-924-6163 or zeuxispf@aol.com.