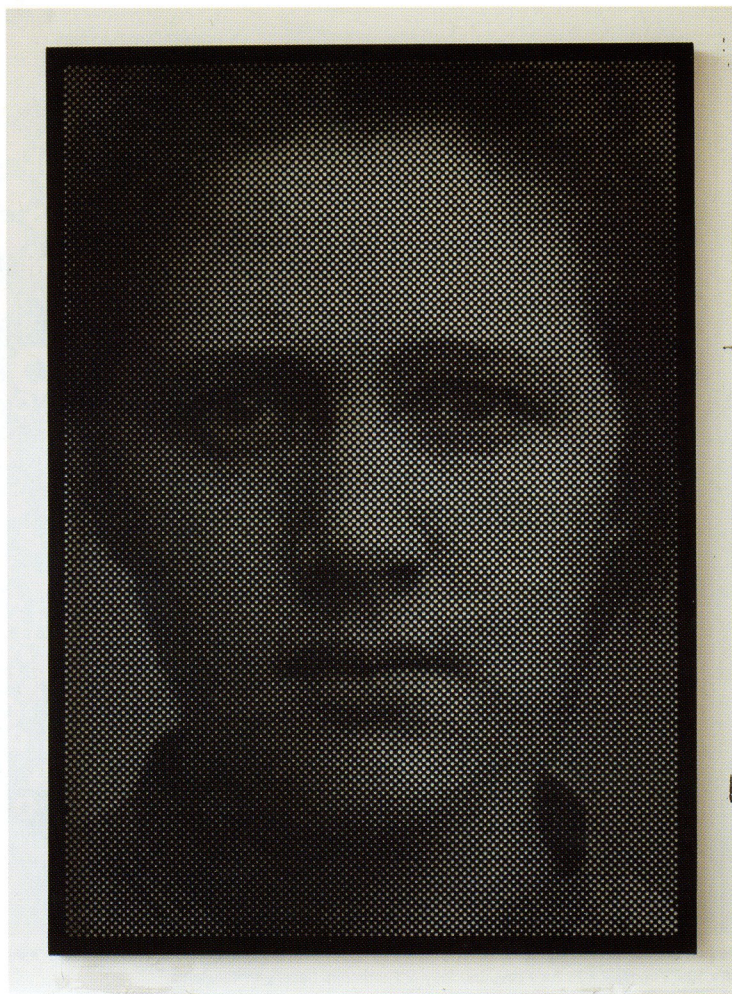




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Anne-Karin Furunes, *Mea Culpa #5*, 2010, Acrylic paint on canvas, perforated, 63 x 78 ¾ in. (160 x 200 cm), Photo courtesy of Barry Friedman Ltd and the artist.

ANNE-KARIN FURUNES

ARTIST TO WATCH

What Anne-Karin Furunes physically removes from her artwork in turn reveals its image and meaning. It is a brilliant visual device that is flawlessly wedded to her concepts. Through the creation of an ingenious process, Furunes has a unique voice within contemporary painting techniques. The artist perforates canvas or aluminum with thousands of small holes, up to 30,000 for each piece, all done by hand over many months. By controlling the light that emanates from behind the surface through these various sized holes, density and sparsity is used to define shape and create a pixilated appearance. The optical trick keeps the viewer engaged in a physical dialogue with the work. Since the image is only fully revealed from a particular distance, one must move around the painting to experience its full effects. As you move closer or farther away from the large-scale work, the dots vie for your eye and the image fades and reappears. When your vision adjusts and the perfect vantage point is found, a haunting portrait reveals itself. These compelling aesthetics become conceptu-

ally layered when we discover the faces are anonymous figures from forgotten or suppressed historical and governmental archives, filed under demeaning labels such as undesirables, degenerate, diseased, or unfit for society. The revelation adds a deeply felt poignancy to the portraits, as the artist pays meaningful tribute to these “unknowns” by bringing their portraits into the light and restoring their humanity. Furunes essentially is creating art through a visual language that speaks about the elusive nature of history and memory.

Anne-Karin Furunes was born in Norway (1961), where she continues to live and work, and is considered one of the top contemporary artists in the Nordic countries. She exhibits at major galleries and museums, and is in many public and noted private collections, mostly in Europe and Australia. Furunes is represented by Galerie Anhava, Helsinki and Barry Friedman Ltd, New York, which offered her first solo show in the United States. —KWT