

Source Derivation X (R. HARRIS) Eye View A, B / Dérivation à la source X (R. HARRIS) vue des yeux A, B, 2008

Installed with two Robert Harris (1849-1919), self-portraits / Installé avec deux autoportraits de Robert Harris

For once the gaze is returned. Robert Harris (1849-1919), in his later years, gray hair and white beard, stares back, directly, through spectacles with thin wire frames. Allan has fixed on these lenses, cropped and framed them, repeating the gaze. The drawn gesture removed, here he works with a simple layering of transparencies





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and mirrors, delicate framed images that compliment the two Harris self-portraits. To the right, a tiny bust, sculpted in red clay by Harris, is backed by a sequence of details of the eyes, repeated four times. The head is a quarter life size, but the eyes in the image sequence have been repeated life size. Like *Poor Girl Triptych*, the repetition suggests a filmic passage of time and looking. The bust is small, frail, a quality now enhanced by the scale of the eyes in the image panel.

The clay carries a warmth of touch, caressed and worked into shape, at odds with the highly processed photographic images that have a determined harshness. Emptied of the hand of the artist, they remain analytical, coldly precise, as if the artist has stepped back to consciously contemplate his role, a situation countered by the