



**MYTHS  
/  
RANKIN  
AND  
DAMIEN  
HIRST**

*Featuring Dani Smith*

# RANKIN AND DAMIEN HIRST PRESENT MYTHS, MONSTERS & LEGENDS

**RANKIN GALLERY, 8070 MELROSE AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90046  
OCTOBER 12TH 2011**

**ANNROY GALLERY, 110-114 GRAFTON ROAD, LONDON, NW5 4BA  
OCTOBER 20TH 2011**

Long-term friends photographer, Rankin, and artist, Damien Hirst, come together in a collaboration, titled, 'Myths, Monsters and Legends.'

The pair leverage their respective creative mediums and shared dark wit in a project born out of a joint fascination with the ancient world, and an interest in contextualising it in a modern environment. 'Myths, Monsters and Legends' is an exploration of imagined narratives and monsters of past civilizations, viewed through a modern lens.

Both Hirst and Rankin are known for their fearless approach, pushing boundaries and pressing buttons in pursuit of the creation of iconic imagery that raises questions and provokes debate. Model, Dani Smith, was the inspiration in bringing their shared vision to life. Smith was integral to the project - the concept was created and evolved around her. The trio worked together to create menacing beasts and ethereal bodies from mystical times.

When Hirst asked Rankin what made him want to do the 'Myths, Monsters and Legends' project, Rankin replies, "It was you, man! You excited me with it, I wanted to be a part of it. I always have dreams about monsters, devils and evil: I get a lot of my ideas from my dreams. I have a fascination with fantasy and reality, and bringing the two together to make people go, "Wow". That's what photography is. It can steal your soul, if only for a split second. Plus, I'm a sucker for anything to do with Rome or Greece." Rankin

When Rankin and Damien discuss working with Dani, Hirst explains how he first met the model, "I needed a new character in this show that I'm working on. I met her through Santé D'Orazio; he'd shot her for some books and she wasn't scared of hard work. In my show, she's supposed to be an unobtainable beauty that an art collector tries to possess. He commissions artists to make sculptures of her - as a sun god and a centaur." Damien Hirst

The show, 'Myths, Monsters and Legends' has its world debut in Los Angeles with a private viewing at the RANKIN Gallery on October 12th and opens to the public the following day. The private view for the London show will be at Rankin's Annroy Gallery on October 20th.

Rankin lives and works in London and is one of Britain's most accomplished photographers. Over the last 22 years he has earned a reputation for his insightful portraiture, iconic images and is repeatedly commissioned for global campaigns, editorial features as well as being exhibited in galleries around the world. As a director, he frequently shoots music videos, commercials and documentaries and in 2006 directed award-winning feature film, 'The Lives of the Saints'.

Damien Hirst dominated the art scene in the 90's and his work became the symbol of 'Britart' worldwide. In 1995 he became the recipient of the coveted Turner Prize for his work titled, 'The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living' - a tiger shark immersed in formaldehyde in a clear display case.

In 2008 Hirst took an unprecedented move for a living artist by selling a complete show titled, 'Beautiful Inside My Head Forever', the show auctioned at Sotheby's and exceeded all predictions, raising \$198 million breaking the record for a one-artist auction. Hirst's work continues to define cutting-edge contemporary art; his installations, sculptures and paintings have positioned him as one of the most successful and controversial artists of our time.

Dani Smith is a NYC model currently based in London. She moved from Salt Lake City, Utah at age 15 to pursue her career. She has modeled in Santé D'Orazio's latest book. She is known as one of Damien Hirst's favorite subjects. He cast her in U2s music video 'Even Better Than The Real Thing' which premiered at Glastonbury this year and continued onto the 360 tour

'Myths, Monsters and Legends' is an extraordinary pairing of creative talents and will appeal to people who have an eye for high art and an appreciation of the surreal. A publication with the same title accompanies the exhibition and a further show is scheduled in London this fall.

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