



Can a portrait painting help to behold the Infinite in the face of the other? When I truly encounter another person, in that meeting of eyes I will see the humanity of this person. What does this require of me? And what do we refuse to see? How much truth can we bear to face? How different our world would be if we treated each individual as a reflection of the image of God and of equal value in God's eyes.

The use of gold leaf in my portraits is symbolic of this sacredness regardless of what someone has suffered. The technique is intentionally reminiscent of icon paintings....

CLICK for video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3D391u2Si_I

Hannah Rose Thomas is a British artist named a Forbes 30 under 30 and a Vogue Future Visionary. Plough Publishing House published her art book *Tears of Gold: Portraits of Yazidi, Rohingya, and Nigerian Women* in February 2024. The artist says:

“... *Tears of Gold* gathers my portraits of Yazidi women who escaped ISIS slavery, Rohingya women who fled violence in Myanmar, and Nigerian women who survived Boko Haram captivity, as well as Afghan, Ukrainian, Palestinian, and Uyghur women....

These women are survivors, yet their lives cannot be reduced to a single violent experience. My paintings are an attempt to honor these ‘living icons’ and to convey their extraordinary resilience, resistance, and dignity.”

Plough, Winter 2024, p.65

