



**Marie Cécile Thijs**

*(Dutch, 27.12.1964 - )*

**Cat with White Collar V**

Signed on reverse  
Modern Art Print on Diasec  
90 x 90 cm / 35.4 x 35.4 inch

**EXHIBITED**

at Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) San Diego

**ABOUT**

**White Collar**

'White Collar' is an autonomous photo project of Marie Cécile Thijs, which she started in 2009. The models are 'wearing' a 17th-century antique ruff collar that belongs to the collection of the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Because this collar is so delicate and rare, it was photographed by Marie Cecile Thijs - separately and under special conditions - in the Rijksmuseum and was later digitally added to the models.

Photos Girl with White Collar at table and Cat with White Collar are included in the collection of the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam (NL) since 2010. In that same year, Girl with White Collar was selected by the curator of the photo museum Chicago for the international Art of Photography Show. White Collar has also been awarded in the IPA 2011 (International Photography Awards), the Hasselblad Masters Competition 2010, and became a winner twice in the Masters Cup 2013, category Fine Art.

*About the ruff collar (information by the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam):*

'This collar is made of particularly fine batiste or cambric. As the name suggests, the material originally came from the Flemish town of Kamerijk or Cambrai. It was introduced to the Northern Netherlands by the Flemish refugees who arrived in the late sixteenth century. Haarlem weavers specialised in the fabric. Because of its shape, this kind of collar was known as a millstone ruff. These became fashionable in the second half of the sixteenth century under the influence of the Spanish rulers. Early millstone ruffs were starched with regular pleats. This collar, however, is looser and less tidy. It is of a type that was popular with young, fashionable men around 1615 to 1635. This is the only surviving pleated ruff in the world.'

**BIOGRAPHY**

*(Marie Cécile Thijs)*



Marie Cécile Thijs is a Dutch artist with a distinctive signature. Her portraits are still lifes and her still lifes become portraits. Objects become characters. They move away from their daily destination, away from time and space. That provides intriguing creations, where elements like tranquility, dynamics and sometimes also humor meet. In her work the unusual is natural.

Photographs of Marie Cécile Thijs - in terms of light and color - are reminiscent of the Golden Age. The old masters in painting are a major source of inspiration. At the same time her work is totally contemporary. She is specialised in staged photography, and created the series *White Collar*, *Food Portraits*, *Cooks*, *Horses and Human Angels*, which are still in progress to this day.

For the serie *White Collar* (since 2009) she photographed an authentic seventeenth century ruff collar from the collection of the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, which she later processed in her portraits using digital techniques.

Marie Cécile Thijs gained fame with her autonomous work. In addition, she has portrayed many writers, politicians and artists. She has been fascinated by photography since her youth, but began her career as a lawyer. In her late twenties, she rediscovered the camera and a few years later made the shift to life as a photographer. "For me it was love at second sight," says Marie Cécile Thijs. Meanwhile, she has many exhibitions and has received international awards. In 2014 she won the first prize in the International Photography Masters Cup with her photograph 'Chickpeas'. In 2010, the photograph 'Girl with White Collar at Table' was selected for a photo prize by the curator of the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago. Her work is included in several museum collections, among those are the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam and Rotterdam Museum.

Marie Cecile Thijs had her first retrospective in Museum aan het Vrijthof Maastricht in 2015. Also her work has been exhibited at TEFAF Maastricht and Art Miami in the same year.

In 2016 she was part of the exhibition *Dutch Identity* in Museum De Fundatie Zwolle. Also her photographs were exhibited in the EU 2016 paviljon in Amsterdam on the occasion of the chairmanship of the European Union as part of the selection of the National Portrait Gallery. Most recent she took part in the Exhibition 'Beauty and the Beast' in the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego and the exhibition 'Hemels Rembrandt' at the Rembrandt Tower Boardroom, Amsterdam.

SmithDavidson Gallery hosts the solo exhibition 'Argentum' by Marie Cécile Thijs at the Amsterdam gallery in 2016.

In 2018, some of the iconic Food Portraits by Marie Cécile Thijs will be present during the exhibition "WE ARE FOOD - OVER DE KUNST VAN VOEDSEL" to be held at the Jan Cunen Museum from 25 February to 16 September.

#### LITERATURE

2018 - Elle Décor Italia

2015 - 'Foodportraits by Marie Cécile Thijs

2014 - 'Characters' by Marie Cécile Thijs

#### EXHIBITIONS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>2018 Solo exhibition 'Tussen Hemel en Aarde', Museum Jan Cunen, Oss, The Netherlands</p> <p>2018 BLOOM, Karmelklooster, Drachten, The Netherlands</p> <p>2018 The Unusual Is Natural, Palazzo Saluzzo Paesana, Turin, Italy</p> <p>2018 Miami Country Day School, Miami, USA</p> <p>2018 TEFAF Maastricht, SmithDavidson Gallery, Maastricht, The Netherlands</p> <p>2018 WE ARE FOOD - over de kunst van voedsel, Museum Jan Cunen, Oss, The Netherlands</p> <p>2017 FOOD! Eten in de kunst en design van nu, Museum Nairac, Barneveld, The Netherlands</p> | <p>2017 Solo Exhibition, Kunsthall Rotterdam, The Netherlands</p> <p>2017 Solo Exhibition, 'Marie Cécile Thijs' Galerie Catherine Niederhauser, Lausanne, Switzerland</p> <p>2017 TEFAF Maastricht, SmithDavidson Gallery, Maastricht, The Netherlands</p> <p>2017 Solo exposition Marie Cécile Thijs, Casa Tua, Aspen, Colorado, USA</p> <p>2016 'Stills in Motion', 10 Corso Como Gallery, Shanghai, China</p> <p>2016 'Argentum' Solo Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, The Netherlands</p> <p>2016 'Hemels Rembrandt' in collaboration with Rembrandthuis, Rembrandt Tower Boardroom, Amsterdam, The Netherlands</p> <p>2016 'Mix and Match' Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, The Netherlands</p> <p>2016 'BAL', Soestdijk Palace, Baarn, The Netherlands</p> <p>2016 'Beauty and the Beast, the Animal in Photography', MOPA, San Diego, USA</p> <p>2016 Art New York, New York, USA</p> <p>2016 TEFAF Maastricht, SmithDavidson Gallery, The Netherlands</p> <p>2016 Palm Beach Jewelry, Art and Antique Show, Palm Beach, Florida, USA</p> <p>2016 Exhibition Museum de Fundatie - Dutch Identity, Zwolle, The Netherlands</p> <p>2016 Pavillion Chairmanship European Union, Amsterdam, The Netherlands</p> <p>2015 Art Miami   SmithDavidson Gallery, December 1st until December 6th, Miami</p> <p>2015 Art Silicon Valley / San Francisco   SmithDavidson Gallery, San Francisco, USA</p> <p>2015 Solo Exhibition Museum aan het Vrijthof, Maastricht, The Netherlands</p> <p>2015 TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands</p> <p>2014 1st Place - International Masters Cup   Category Food   Chickpeas</p> <p>2014 Exhibition at Sotheby's Paris, France</p> <p>2014 Presentation on Mediawand Rotterdamse Schouwburg</p> <p>2014 Participation The Big Art Calendar Rotterdam   Rotterdamse Kunstkalender</p> <p>2013 Publication Book Characters   Publisher Lecturis</p> <p>2013 Portrait Salinero included in the collection Rijksmuseum Amsterdam</p> <p>2013 Top 3 International Masters Cup - Category Fine Art   White Collar &amp; Majestic</p> <p>2013 Part of selection committee Fotofestival Naarden</p> <p>2012 Exhibition Melkweg Gallery The Last Dance   Highlights by curator Suzanne Dechert</p> <p>2012 Awarded in the International Photography Awards IPA   Unicorn</p> <p>2012 Exhibition at New York photofestival Photoville   Cooks, New York, USA</p> <p>2012 Nominated for a Magneet for Campaign Jonge Meesters for lawfirm Pels Rijcken</p> <p>2011 Awarded in the International Photography Awards IPA   White Collar &amp; Cooks</p> <p>2011 Awarded in the Hasselblad Masters Competition   White Collar</p> <p>2011 Exhibition Fotofestival Naarden, The Netherlands</p> <p>2011 Exhibition in Supreme Court The Hague   Legal Practitioners, The Hague, The Netherlands</p> <p>2010 Selected by the Museum of Contemporary Photography Chicago for the Art of Photography Show 2010   White Collar. Chicago, USA</p> <p>2010 Awarded in Masters Cup of the International Color Awards   Human Angels</p> <p>2009 Selected by FotoMuseum Antwerpen for international exhibition, Antwerp, Belgium</p> <p>2007 Solo exhibition Melkweg Gallery Amsterdam   Portraits, The Netherlands</p> |
|---|--|

**COLLECTIONS**

The work of Marie Cécile Thijs is included in the permanent collection of Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, the Musée National d'Histoire et d'Art Luxembourg in Luxembourg, and the Museum of Photographic Arts MOPA in San Diego, USA.