

Golden femme

If you've been lucky enough (or maybe smart enough) to have visited the Neue Galerie in New York, you will have seen her. It is impossible not to see her.

Her gaze seems lost. She carries heavy, sleepy green eyes and opens her red luminous lips partly. She exudes sensuousness but remains effortlessly innocent. A heavily jeweled choker is wrapped around her intense pale neck. Strokes of blue caress her clavicles. Her face seems blurry but strangely, it is inexplicably detailed. It is accentuated by her dark, black hair and blushed red cheeks. The right hand is subtly raised, as if she was awaiting patiently for someone; it denotes seduction, a sexual energy which characterises the artist. Its erotic in its essence. But it is not like Picasso's Ladies of Avignon or Schiele's dark female nudes; it is not trying to provoke. The painting carries a much a more pure and innocent sexual air, nearly palpable.

She is wearing a tight, long, golden dress replete of rectangles and dazzling shapes which resemble attentive eyes. Waves of golden and shining leafs fall like a cascade next to her, she is in the heart of it. At the Neue Galerie she is usually called "the Monalisa" but she lacks mystery or secrecy- her look speaks for itself.

The background, filled with countless golden and silver spheres, creates an impossibly celestial atmosphere and she graciously emerges from the bright and impenetrable pattern of hypnotizing shapes. She seems helplessly surrounded by the perfect storm of gold. It is poetry of the Modernism. This is, just one of Gustav Klimt's several masterpieces- Portrait of Adele-Bloch Bauer I.