

Pearlstein, Philip (b. 1924)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- Carnegie Institute of Technology, MA in Art History-New York University
- Dadaist Francis Picabia (strove to break artistic taboos),
Gustave Courbet-painted nude with detachment.

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- Realistic, academic, figure painting unpopular since Impressionism-revived by artist.
- Known for nudes-non-traditional informality, unexpected postures, unusual perspectives, including radical cropping of figures, precise imagery, smooth surfaces, aggressively literal, purposefully unromantic, depersonalized through arbitrary cropping and harsh lighting.
- Fascinated with strangeness of flesh, “otherness of bodies”-skin is frontier as well as surface.

KIA WORK-*Portrait of the Artist's Daughter*, oil on canvas, 1970

- Best known for his severe and uncompromising figure studies- also does portraits, including his own children.
- Pearlstein restricts the purchase of these portraits to museums. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore purchased this for the KIA in 1970.
- Direct, forceful and free from sentiment. Child's grave presence is completely severed from the context of “cute” or of paternal affection. While she is an image alien to our preconceived notions of girlhood, Julia does communicate a sense of sadness, innocence and acute vulnerability.

