



READ THIS SKIP THAT

THE DAILY PIC

THE DAILY PIC HOME | ABOUT BLAKE GOPNIK

A Flood of Faces

by Blake Gopnik | Nov 16, 2012 4:30 PM EST

The Daily Pic: For 40 days, painter Nick Miller churned out likenesses.

3 Like 16 Tweet 4

0



(Courtesy Nick Miller)

These dashing portraits of New York critics David Cohen and Joseph Wolin (both friends of mine) are part of a 40-day, 40-portrait campaign waged by Irish painter Nick Miller, when he was in residence this fall in a Brooklyn studio. Miller isn't a painter so much by profession, as by ontology. His practice is all about facing up to what being a painter could mean, at this late date, and to what is involved in using paint to encounter the world. The result, often, seems to be a kind of "painting degree zero" – just making representation happen, without thinking too much about style or manner. It's as if Samuel Beckett had written, "I can't paint, I will paint."

For a full visual survey of past Daily Pics visit blakegopnik.com/archive.

Like [The Daily Beast on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#) for updates all day long.

Blake Gopnik is a contributing critic to *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast* and writes on art and design for a wide range of publications. He previously spent a decade as chief art critic of *The Washington Post* and before that was an arts editor and critic in Canada. He has a doctorate in art history from Oxford University, and has written on aesthetic topics ranging from Facebook to gastronomy.

For inquiries, please contact *The Daily Beast* at editorial@thedailybeast.com.