

THE ART NEWSPAPER

REVIEW



EXHIBITIONS

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INTERVIEW

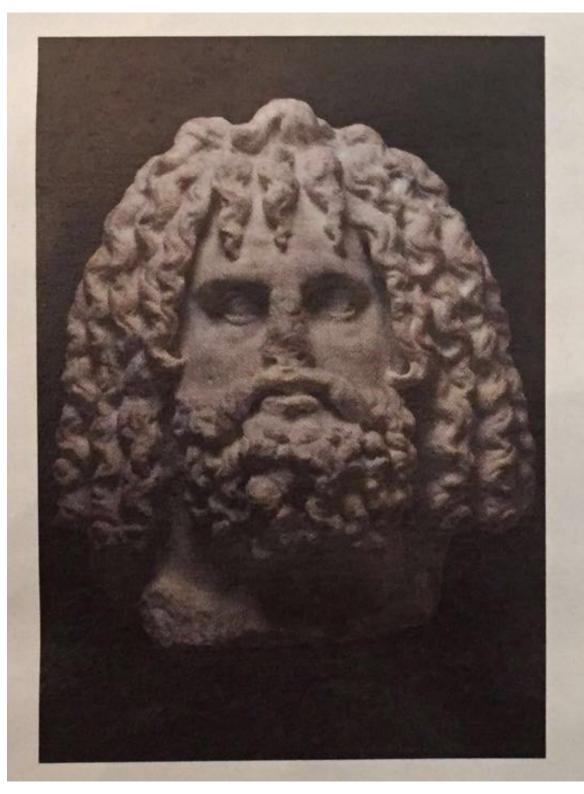
Holy trinity: Tacita Dean on her three London shows

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Colossal head of Serapis

ROMAN (2ND CENTURY AD)
Galerie Chenel

The Paris gallery is making its debut at Tefaf Maastricht with a two foot-tall head of Serapis, a Greco-Egyptian god revered for his healing powers. His worshipers believed Serapis would visit the infirm in their sleep in order to prescribe treatments to their illnesses. The marble head, which shows the god with his characteristic long curly hair and beard, was made a half-century after his cult was introduced by Ptolemy I (reign 305-283BC), the founder of the Ptolemaic dynasty that ruled Egypt until the Roman conquest in 30BC. The sculpture was discovered in Akhmim, Upper Egypt, in 1904 and sold at Drouot in Paris a year later, where it was purchased by the French art dealer René Gimpel (the brother-in-law to dealer Joseph Duveen). It passed to Gimpel's heirs, with whom it has remained until recently. The head is priced at €750,000. E.S.