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## Chantal Joffe · *Backstage*

Oil on board, 2007/8

30cm (h) 15cm (w)

Estimate: £2,000—£4,000

Generously donated by the Artist  
and Victoria Miro gallery, London.



Chantal Joffe (UK, b. 1969) completed her MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art in 1993 and lives and works in London. Joffe's expressive and emotionally charged paintings have often seen her female subjects disintegrating into claustrophobically decorative and unstable backgrounds, as if struggling to maintain their sense of presence. She attracted critical acclaim with paintings boldly drawing on both intimate family photographs and images from pornography; followed by a more introspective and disturbing series of self-portraits made soon after the birth of her first child, in which she appeared wild-eyed and slightly unhinged.

Like contemporary versions of archetypal Gothic heroines, Joffe's distinct style of painting offers an uncompromising sense of power, complexity and impetus to the women she portrays, who in return, offer themselves up for the projection of heightened imagined psychological and emotional states.

