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"MY FAVORITE"

(Artists' Choice of their Favorite Art Works)



FRANK MANN – giving his 'talk' about his work

ASCA Exhibits at the Shelter Rock Gallery

by Miriam Wills

The American Society of Contemporary Artists' exhibition at Shelter Rock Gallery took place from March 31st to May 2nd, 2006, called "My Favorite," seems to actually be, according to Ray Weinstein, one of the best ASCA shows, along with the Iona "Driven to Abstraction," of the past few years. The theme of the exhibit was the artists' choice of their "favorite works." The nineteen artist consist of Elaine Alibrandi, Elvira Dimitrij, Harriet FeBland, Sachie Hayashi, Judith Huttner, Rose Sigal Ibsen, Bernard Kassoy, Hortense Kassoy, Estelle Levy, Frank Mann, Harriet Regina Marion, Joanne Beaulé Ruggles, Neva Setlow, Raymond Shanfeld, Jami Taback, Raymond Weinstein, Marilyn Weiss, Karen Whitman and Miriam Wills.

Quotations by the artists were placed around the gallery along with ASCA's history which were mounted by Frank Mann. There were quite a good sized group of observers who enjoyed reading with the creators of the works had to say about them—why the work was considered a favorite. Four artists there who spoke and related the reason for their selection were Jami Taback, Bernard Kassoy, Karen Whitman and Harriet FeBland. Frank Mann wrote that his only favorite creation is the one he is working on at that moment since each is such a different and separate experience. He showed two sensitive linear paintings that easily could be his favorites as well as ours.

Elvira Dimitrij expressed a purpose "to engage viewers into an intangible experience which might suggest a point of view that reflects reality" which comes across in her paintings. Jami Taback gave an interesting talk about her

method of creating her intimate monoprints, as did Karen Whitman discussing her black and white and colored urban linoleum block prints.

There were many outstanding pieces in this lovely exhibition among which were Harriet FeBland's "Sienesse Landscape" which is made up of beautifully modulated colors organized in a geometric composition that reflects her love for Siena. She had been teaching there as an artist in residence enjoying that very happy time which influenced her painting and is evident in her artistic expression. Then there was Ray Shanfeld's "Reflections," a sculpture created from Siena marble which is indeed a beautiful and somewhat subtle work that grabs attention. Harriet Marion's two, small mixed media works created excitement as did Rose Sigal Ibsen's unique watercolor.

There were also the provocative works of Estelle Levy and her own brand of social comment. Such exposure of current procedures in our country at this time is essential. Neva Setlow showed a geometric lighted Plexiglas sculpture that created vibrancy and nuances of color, Joanne Beaulé Ruggles showed a powerful and organic painting, Raymond Weinstein created a figurative wall-relief and another small pedestal sculpture, both romantic and beautiful. Judith Huttner presented a bold and colorful watercolor, while Honey Kassoy's memorable work was especially well received.

Other favorite of the artists and the viewers were Sachi Hayashi's outstanding painting and the moving abstract sculptures of Ray Shanfeld. Bernard Kassoy's artful painting did actually "speak for itself," as he predicted in his talk to the audience, as did the work of Miriam Wills.

The group of works in this remarkable show were priced quite modestly, the highest price at \$3,500, the lowest at \$300. For the quality of the work on display, these prices should be a boon to interested buyers and collectors.

Our thanks to Judith Huttner, along with her husband, who worked diligently as the refreshment Chair, with very gratifying results and appreciation from all present. The paintings for the show was delivered to the apartment of Miriam Wills in Manhattan where they were picked up and delivered to the Shelter Rock Gallery and were later returned.

POSTMARK DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL
SHOW: THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2006