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THE WORLD

CHINA'S INTERESTING FUTURE, IN 2019



SPECIAL REPORT

BUSINESS IS CHANGING. WHAT BRINGS THE FUTURE?



OPINION

BREXIT, ASIA AND THE INCREASED LURE OF EUROPE

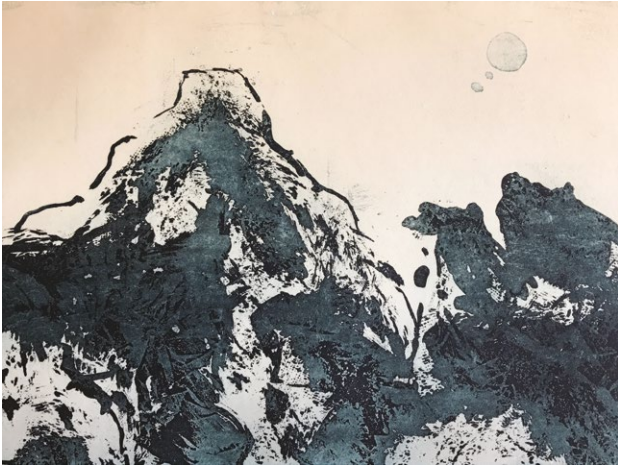


THE WORLD

US DEMOCRATS ARE GOING 'SOCIALIST'. A BOON FOR TRUMP?







'Art makes you humble and patient. It brings me fulfillment'

It makes life more interesting, claims the artist Anne-Marie Fiquet in an exclusive EBR interview.

by Alexandra Papaisidorou*

Vincent Van Gogh mentioned: "It is good to love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done"... and the artist Anne-Marie Fiquet applied it. The Ambliaise who knows well how to make the "two rivers" of her homeplace to flow inside her and turned into rivers of love and inspiration, action and passion, creation and devotion reveals her secrets and share this love. EBR exclusively interviewed Anne-Marie Fiquet and make her assemblage of motives, motivos, motivations, motions both of her life and artistic inspiration. A great number of exhibitions do complete a ten-year period of her multi-faceted works of art. To name a few: paintings, monotypes, engravings, collages, torn papers, drawings, ink, engravings along with different styles elegantly combined with her fine techniques. Sophisticated art houses host Anne-Marie's works of art and it is now the time to discover her beauty!

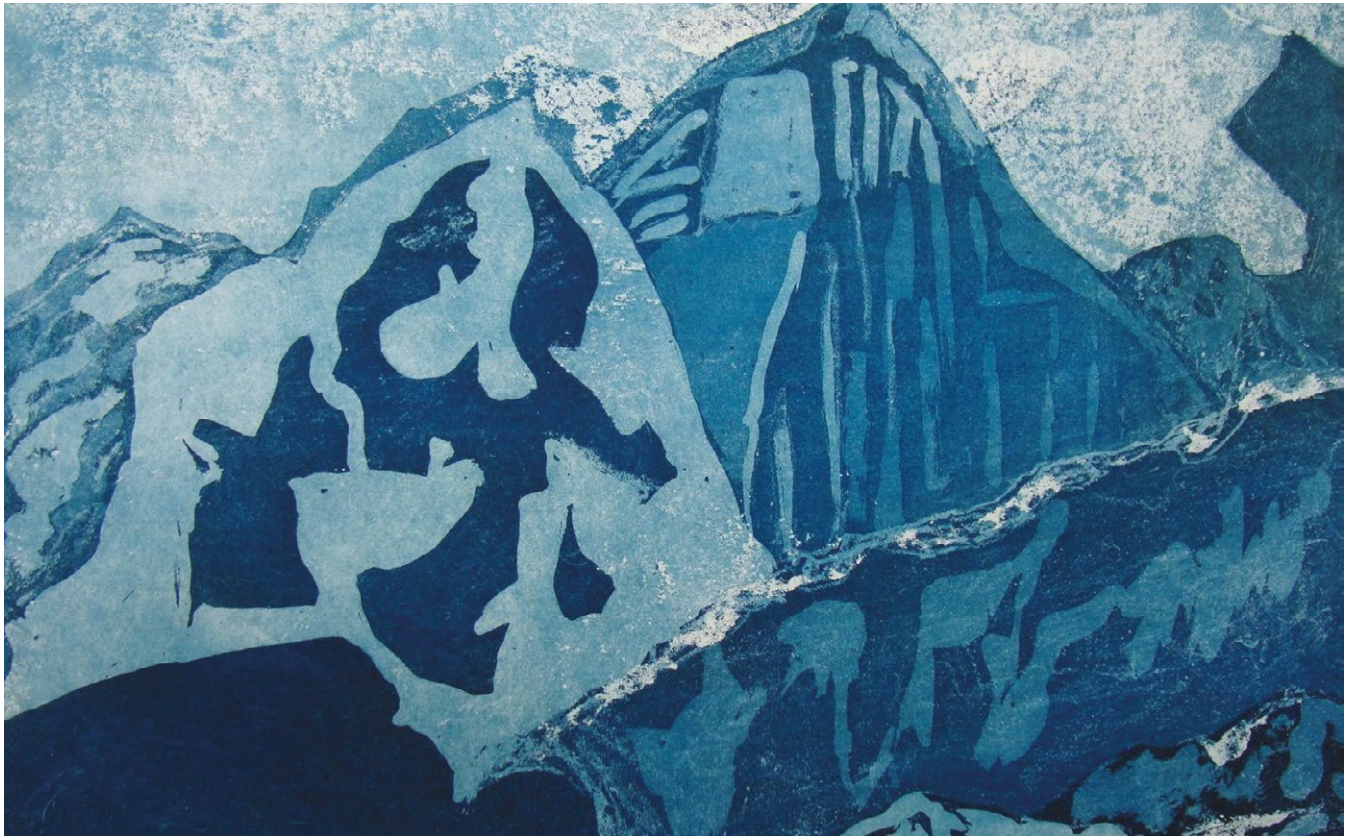
WHO OR WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO TAKE UP PAINTING AND PURSUE A FUTURE DEVOTED IN ART?

Art has always taken a special place in my life as I always enjoyed attending exhibitions and looking in art books. But, my practice as an artist is only 10 years old. Born in Amblie, a small village in Normandy, I moved to Paris for my studies. My professional career started

there in the field of marketing and tourism and then in 1989 I came to Brussels to work for the European Commission, where I stayed for almost 20 years. Breast cancer made me quit my career and change my life. Art came to me as a healing process and became almost an obsession, an art mania. I started painting some monochromes with a friend and then I attended painting classes nearby before eventually attending Fine Art Academies in Brussels (Académie des Beaux Arts de Bruxelles, Rhok Flemish Art Academy). Brussels offers an ideal environment conducive to artistic practice with its many art academies, art galleries and art collectors. It is famous for its art market, art fairs such as Brafa or Art Brussels.

WHO OR WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT INFLUENCES ON YOUR ARTISTIC LIFE?

Picasso has had a strong influence on me. Not only because he is the greatest artist of the XX^e century but also because of his eclecticism, he tried everything: all subjects, all techniques and worked constantly. He is an example for me of someone who pursued his fate in a passionate and comprehensive manner. German expressionism, Fauvism, early XX^e century painters were also quite influential, but my taste ranges also from Italian



and Flemish primitives to Renaissance, Baroque and modern art. I love artists like Egon Schiele and Marlene Dumas whose expression in their art is very powerful.

WHICH WORKS OF ART ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

I am never fully happy with my work, so I cannot say I am proud of my work. It would be arrogant. Still, I am quite happy with the variety of art work that I created both in style (figurative and abstract) and techniques (drawing drawing 2017 ink drawing, paintings, collages, prints, ink). Engraving has recently been a real challenge for me as the potential is unlimited (aquatint, etchings, woodcut, etc.). Art practice makes you humble, modest and patient.

HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR PAINTING CHOICES FROM SEASON TO SEASON? ENGRAVINGS, MONOTYPES, COLLAGES, TORN PAPERS CONSIST A VARIETY OF YOUR ARTISTIC AGENDA... COULD YOU GIVE US MORE DETAILS?

My early work was based on monochromes. I also copied artists like Kees Van Dongen, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Matisse, which is a good way to learn how to paint. My very painting portrait was that of my younger sister Estelle, the younger one in a family of 12, after lunch in the home

garden in Normandy and then I painted my father newspaper. After a series of portraits I explored abstraction and material in a series of paintings inspired by Al Alhambra in Grenada. The series of collages on the image of woman called « body and soul » was based on female magazines. My themes also come from my journeys (blue mountains from my trip to Iran), the daily news (my rhino in the financial jungle or simply be based on the observation of nature and of the human body (live model). They can also be given themes or directions in the Art Academy like the work we did echoing the exhibition on Japanese prints in the Brussels Cinquantenaire Museum. I always learn from exchanging with others and I find it stimulating. I like to renew my work constantly, I enjoy exploring new techniques, new medium etcetera. It makes life more interesting. Finally, I visit many art exhibitions and art fairs, where I also get inspiration for my work.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT IDEAS AND CONCEPTS TO IMPART TO ASPIRING ARTISTS?

I would say: be yourself, be sincere, dare, don't be afraid of yourself and others. Do, do, do, work, work, work and try again. It is through work that you can make progress and find what you are looking for. Listen to your heart and find pleasure in your art. Also, don't expect the result immediately, the process is very important.





WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

For me, happiness is rather theoretical but I believe in small pleasures in life such as admiring a beautiful picture, the sea, the sun, nice objects, nice friends, nice food, nice wine. Shakespeare said « beauty is in the eye of the beholder ». Beauty brings happiness. I believe in « Art Total » ('Gesamtkunstwerk' in German), art as a lifestyle.

WHAT ARE YOUR COMMENTS ON EU'S 'LOST PERFUME OF BEAUTY', ARTISTIC IDENTITY AND LOSS OF CULTURAL PURSUITS?

The EU is facing times of uncertainty, lack of confidence in EU leaders, migration crisis, youth unemployment, economic recession, identity crisis, rising nationalism, risk of splitting such as for Brexit. Against this background, culture is not the EU's top priority. But we should recall that one of the founders of Europe, Jean Monnet, said if I had to start again the common market, which started with Coal and Steel European Community and Euratom, I would start with culture. He understood culture is crucial for building common values, understanding each other, integration, tolerance and democracy. The EU is torn apart on the issue of immigration. Fear of others, foreigners, leads to nationalism. But look what happened in the early XX° century in Paris for example, the avant-garde artists came from other countries often escaping dictatorship or revolution: Picasso, Juan Gris, Modigliani, Chagall, Giacometti, De Stael... There was such a cultural effervescence in Montmartre and Montparnasse. Europe was built also by and with migrants.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT EUROPE CAN BE RE-ORIENTED TO PROSPERITY, WELL-BRING, HARMONY, BALANCE THROUGH "BRUSH-STROKES" OF SOPHISTICATION AND FINESSE?

We need to stand for our common values in Europe, based on democracy, tolerance, freedom and solidarity.

The EU is the first commercial power in the world. Beyond its economic power, Europe is also a cultural hub with the greatest cultural heritage in the world and we should be very proud of it. Europe is very attractive and I believe we should promote it more. Many countries envy our cultural heritage and history and want to import our art to their countries (just look at the new museums in the Middle East: Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Desert Rose Qatar's National Museum and those new museums being built all over China). I believe also that the role of women in politics and art should be enhanced. There are still very few women artists at international level and present in museums. I am not sure things have changed much in the last 40 years since the Guerrilla girls** feminist movement in New York in the 80's. But, never give up! Be optimistic!

*Born in Amblie in Normandie, Anne-Marie Fiquet, started as a painter in 2008. She is living in Paris and Brussels, where she has her own atelier, Art Kitchen 200. Her passion and eclecticism are reflected in her art. Anne-Marie's work can be seen at an exhibition in Brussels: Galerie Le Laboratoire, 96-100 rue Brogniez, 1070 Anderlecht (March 15-17). Visit her website www.annemariefiguet.eu or look at Instagram @figuetannemarie or Facebook 'Anne-Marie Fiquet' to find more.

**Anne-Marie Fiquet exhibited recently in Brussels, in Galerie Le Laboratoire. The vernissage was on March 8, World Women's Day. For that reason, she referred with her paintings, all male nudes, to the 'Guerrilla Girls'. These feminists complained, that in the Metropolitan Museum in NYC, almost all paintings of nudes showed women, and that almost all of these were painted by men. She also exhibited on this occasion, with a nod to Gustave Courbet, her painting 'A male origin of the world'.

**Alexandra Papaisidorou*

is Editor-at-large @ PhD candidate of European @ International Relations