

The humankind in art's assessment

Dalila Dalléas Bouzar's paintings emanate the feeling of visions close to those that emerge from „flower cloth". In certain ways they reveal both simple and highly sensory moods, fears and passions which take shape in a mapping of sensitive dominated pastel shades. True to her wishes and feelings, the artist spreads the picturesque by chromatics, which makes her emotional universe visible, enhanced to universality, reminiscent of the work "Lucian Freud, The Butcher." As if meant to exorcise fears and fantasies, she tracks down the ghosts that inhabit our imagination and the harsh reality that comes to our minds in moments of terror; her triptych "Sentinel" is eloquent in this sense.

With great mastery in the way of bringing out floating colours, Dalila Dalléas Bouzar succeeds to crystallize emotions through symbolic figures that range from art history to icons of known political figures. Revisiting "Women of Algiers" or "icons of Saddam and Khomeini" is a given way to rethink the contested history of the post-colonial Arab world. This world, still inhabited by the effects of the painful past wars of liberation is now stirred by ideological political movements, often violent, which affect the individual citizen in his/her physical and moral self. Therefore, organising painting workshops for women in 2004 in Oran was a means for the artist to feel and express emotions by sharing, which helps to continue to live socially. But the experience of violence and trauma also needs to be broken. A work about memory that the artist procures in a sensible way through images, by creating a purely artistic device as well as revisiting the traces and scars of near and distant past. This is also the question of vulnerability and fallibility of mankind. The much too human dimension can be captured in the manner of perception on history, without a preconditioned judgement. Isn't this power of art, which is able to open to various interpretations by convening emotions and leaving room for doubt?

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