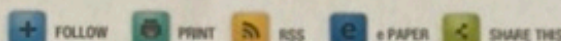




Art



SPECIAL

Allusive interiors, multiple media at Alice Mogabgab

November 05, 2011 02:04 AM

By Chirine Lahoud

The Daily Star



"Intérieur vert," 2001, mixed-media-on-canvas, 150x120 cm.



BEIRUT: "The eyes," as the well-known saying says, "are the mirror of the soul." The thing about such aphorisms is that they can be adapted to many different situations. A book, for instance, can be the mirror of a writer's talent, just as a canvas can be the mirror of a painter's inspiration.

"Derrière le Miroir" ("Behind the Mirror"), a solo exhibition by Chilean painter Andrea Carreno, presently on show at Ashrafieh's Alice Mogabgab Gallery, embodies the aphorism nicely. These 14 mixed-media-on-canvas works and six small drawings (all 30x30 cm) express Carreno's way of leading her viewers into her personal artistic space.

In her mixed-media piece "Intérieur Vert" ("Green Indoor", 150x120 cm), Carreno mixes a wide palette of colors – greens, reds, blues and yellows – along with drawing.

What at first may look like an awfully crowded scene manages to not disturb the viewer, thanks to the exaggerated perspective Carreno has built into her work. One room opens onto another (and another), while a reflective plate or globe to the right of the scene reveals the door from which the scene is "seen."

More from

CHIRINE LAHOUD

Forgotten stories
spray painted to
life

Look out world,
Speedboy's in the
house

Byblos offers up
eclectic 2014
summer program

Timeless art, with
a side of lyricism

Ceramic
flashbacks and
other decorations



MOST POPULAR

VIEWED

SEARCHED

1. Clooney, Alamuddin set de
2. Unique statue of Phoenicia Sidon
3. Aoun not a consensus can
4. Ethnic tensions erupt in Bu
5. Syria's rebel defense mini
6. Rai adamant on Jerusalem

STAY CONNECTED



Join our free newsle

Enter Your Email Address

MULTIMEDIA

IMAGES

Pictures of the day

Some people might find Carreno's canvas cluttered, representing more items than the eye can comfortably bear. The artist toys with differences of light and shadow to reduce any feeling of suffocation. Different shades of green are used to represent the floor tiles, door frames, cupboards and the tree in the background painting.

More intriguing are the reasons Carreno has chosen to combine drawing and painting in one piece. Are the drawings deliberately unfinished parts of her work? Or did she want to represent a time that has frozen on the canvas?

In the view of gallerist Alice Mogabgab, Carreno always incorporates unknown articles into her work. Whether it is on the closet or the blue wall next to it, there are a number of green bits apparently shooting out of the work, like errant shards of paint.

To the bottom left of the canvas, for instance, the observer can see a part of the floor that is left unpainted (untiled, perhaps?) or torn – just as one would tear the corner off a sheet of paper.

Then there's the blue capital "G" apparently hanging from the cupboard. It isn't at all obvious what it stands for. The same applies to the white capital A that stands like a child's play toy on the floor.

To the top left of the canvas, a beige arch is suspended, as though a single antler had been mounted like a prize. However, the limits of the canvas make it impossible to tell what it is. Is it hanging from the ceiling or mounted on the wall?

Also intriguing is the portrait of the woman. Is it meant to be the artist's self portrait? If not, who is she?

Carreno's mixed-media "La Maison de l'Amie" ("The Friend's House," 130x185 cm) confronts the viewer with another esoteric world cluttered with objects. The work represents such an accumulation of objects and combination of techniques as to force the viewer to wonder about the artist's objectives.

Gazing upon the work is like looking at a blueprint, with bits and pieces everywhere. But the clarity of representation that distinguishes all the figures on the canvas undermines this confusing formal amalgam.

The penciled center of the canvas is reiterated in the black-and-white vista that can be seen through the rear window – adding depth of perspective.

Gazing at this canvas may leave a dreamlike impression upon its viewers. There is something random in this assembly of objects. The horse statuette is rendered next to a vase or a mug. An orange square and blue triangle (part of a child's game?) stand next to another portrait of a woman.

This female figure may be the friend mentioned in the title of the painting but nothing is certain.

Carreno's canvases invite its viewers to enter the artist's world – where color, light, shade and shape mingle in a labyrinth reflecting the artist's mind.

Andrea Carreno's exhibition "Derriere le Miroir" is on display at Alice Mogabgab Gallery until Nov. 26. For more information please call 03-210-424.



A selection of images from around May 19, 2014

STAR'S COLUMNISTS



RAMI G. KHOU

Iran's role in the grows



MICHAEL YOU

Which foundation postwar Syria?



DAVID IGNATI

Optimists are for Palestinian track

Looking for a job

Check

THE DAILY STAR

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



TODAY'S PAPER