

GISÈLE TCHITCHIAMA

exhibitions

2019

“The Circle of Life Project” solo exhibition, Le French May 2019 with the support of The Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, May 2019

2018

“Light Up the Other Side” solo exhibition, presented by The Hong Kong Bankers Club, October 2018

French International School Gala Silent Auction, March 2018

2017

Epic Art Life Charity Auction & Group Exhibition, KELY Support Group, September 2017

Affordable Art Fair Hong Kong represented by Tavernart Gallery Hong Kong, May 2017

2016

“Art Around the World” group show, ethos Gallery Hong Kong, November 2016

Affordable Art Fair Singapore represented by Tavernart Gallery Hong Kong, November 2016

Epic Art Life Charity Auction & Group Exhibition, KELY Support Group, October 2016

“Brushing your Senses” solo exhibition, presented by The Verandah, September 2016

Painting workshop for GM Conference of Peninsula Group, The Verandah, May 2016

2015

Solo exhibition and art workshop at The Verandah, September 2015

“Formes & Lumières” solo exhibition, ethos Gallery Hong Kong, May-June 2015

“Brushing Your Senses” solo exhibition presented by The Hong Kong Bankers Club, May 2015

2011

“De Sources et de Vies” solo exhibition, Culture Club Gallery Hong Kong, October 2011

Publication of Art book *“Et tu es là”*

2011-2010

Arts cards designed and produced for:

The Bookshop, Hong Kong

Dymocks Bookstores, Hong Kong

G.O.D. Goods of Desire Stores, Hong Kong

2010

“Du bleu au trait” solo exhibition, Régis B, France Office du Tourism du-Haut-Lignon, Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France

2004 - 2005 (June to March)

Collage Art postcards designed for and sold at Le Bon Marché, Paris, France

2004

Work shown with Galerie La dune Château d’Oléron, France, June - September 2004

2003

“Présences rassurantes” Saint Germain-en-Laye, France, September 2003

1994

“Women painters in Congo” group exhibition, Espace André Malraux, French Embassy, Republic of Congo

Commissioned works by private collectors and companies.

AWARDS

Awarded third prize in "*Women Painters in Congo*," 1994

PUBLICATIONS

2011 *Et tu es là*

2010 *A Walk in Tai Tam*

PRESS

Trait d'Union Magazine, November 2011

Trait d'Union Magazine, September 2010

Le Progrès, 13 September 2010

Imprint: The Annual Anthology of Women in Publishing Society Hong Kong. Issues 11-13, Years 2011 - 2013

In the long run, it is impossible to do without Beauty

An encounter with Gisèle Tchitchiama

By Cécile Dupire

Gisèle Tchitchiama delicately welcomes us into her bright Tai Tam apartment. She turns off the music, smooths the fabric of the sofa with her hand, and seems to apologise. “I work alone, and I have my little habits.” This painter speaks softly, but with intent. She respects the intimacy of her interlocutor equally as much as she means her own to be duly considered. She prefers knowing who she might be dealing with before talking about herself: She promotes neither her work, nor her first book, *A Walk in Tai Tam*. She instinctively prefers to leave things to meetings, encounters.

A fully pre-mapped career

Gisèle Tchitchiama was born in Brazzaville and arrived in France aged 3. An excellent student, she is fuelled by an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. “I loved studying, because learning makes us grow. Learning is a pleasure that follows me; it was hard for me to move on from that period. But I did, I grew, and forced myself to change my vision of the world and of my own self, in order to do things, at last, in accord with who I am truly, deeply.” Inquisitive, she studied literature, languages and law at the Institut Catholique de Paris in Political Sciences and Economy. She also touches upon cultural anthropology, before settling on a DESS in European Affairs (an academic degree between a Master’s and PhD), in which she specialises in EU law, lobbying and strategic planning. “I worked as a community affairs consultant. It was a fascinating and useful job around EU programs which helped companies and charities obtain EU funds for their humanitarian projects. I left in 2002, after the birth of my second child, as the rhythm required no longer corresponded with the wider demands of my life. It was, then, a year filled with questioning, and all my thoughts kept returning to painting....without really daring to go at it point blank.”

The Way of the Painter

“I’ve always painted. When I was a child, it was a hobby encouraged by my family, as long as I did not purport to make a living out of it. When I turned 15, I was approached by the Centre Culturel André Malraux in Brazzaville to participate in an exhibit dedicated to women painters. I won a prize, and carried on in the footsteps pre-mapped for me.” It’s only much later, in 2003, that Gisèle makes the decisive encounter that will enable her to re-trace her path.

“Sandra de Tourbay was living off her art. She encouraged me to exhibit my paintings. I had a few commissions. I frantically painted for a few months, and organised an exhibit in my home: I sold everything.

It is at that moment that I truly started seeing and accepting myself as a painter, with the ever-amazing support of my husband Marcel. I signed up at the Maison des Artistes and on Artesio, an online gallery which aimed at making art better known, with a punctilious selection process. I painted commissions and had to respect a specific working rhythm: this experience was as difficult as enriching. My work was also on exhibit at the Château d'Oléron: I was finally on my way.”

Arriving in Hong Kong

We arrived in Hong Kong in April 2005. By the time the entire family was settled in, I had 'symbolically' stopped painting. Here, everything was big and impressive, the graffiti as much as the writing, and it was all nourishment, new food for my personal artistic vision. I felt like working, and met Nicole Tam, the Director of Lou Pichoun....another beautiful encounter. But then painting reasserted itself...the need, the desire returned, and so did the commissions. Little by little, my children talked about it, led me to meet other mothers. Through word of mouth other people heard about me, gently insisted, showed some faith in me and appreciated my work. I sold my first three paintings thanks to my children, and restarted painting full time. I've never communicated much on my painting. For me, painting is obvious, but issues forth from the intimate realm. But external eyes do me a lot of good, they represent a door, symbolically ajar, which I have finally accepted not to shut.

Subtle collages, enticing even for the most difficult clients

“Before leaving for Hong Kong, I also made collages. One day, I tried my luck at the Bon Marché: they gave me an appointment. I was not really optimistic, but when I arrived with my files, they selected a few to make cards. In Hong Kong, Dymocks also bought me a few.” With Gisèle, it all seems easy, when it is, in fact, about talent and work.

A Walk in Tai Tam: her book, an invitation to discover the south of the island with children's eyes

My book *A Walk in Tai Tam* was born out of a walk taken with my son Elliot. I wished to hold on to this poetic moment: the English-language books for children are very educational, while I think that in the long run, it is impossible to do without Beauty. I wished this book of collage to be open to different readings, to find once again the wonder of childhood when our eyes look upon Hong Kong. The people of Hong Kong with whom I work lent me their eyes so I could create it. It was a lot of work, back and forth, but I was really happy when the boxes arrived. Tired and happy. We are given so much here in Hong Kong. For instance, the page numbers of the book are made out of wood. An old man from Sheung Wan made the stamps for me: the people of Hong Kong do know their heritage. I was also moved by the kindness demonstrated by the Librairie Parenthèses, and also by G.O.D. Dymocks or MCCM. They could, all of them, be jaded, blasé. But no, they took time to look and to accept my difference, my idiosyncrasy. They all immediately supported me.”

Upcoming Projects

This summer, Gisèle has two exhibits organised in France. She was also approached by an American writer to illustrate books for children. But she wants, above all, to continue painting, to make other collages, and to

finalise her own book projects: “I have five book projects sleeping in cardboard boxes.” Our eyes are already shining with anticipation.

Contact & enquiries: www.gisele-tchitchiama.com

GISÈLE TCHITCHIAMA



Reviews

A Spirit, a beautiful spirit whose future is touched with humanity and love...a full circle of a plenitude life.

Original in French:

Une envolée, une légèreté, une plume, une âme, une belle âme promise à un bel avenir rempli d'humanité, d'amour, le cercle de la vie réussie.

- Collector

Depth of emotion, gentleness of expression, Gisèle speaks through her paintings. She speaks with her heart.

Her paintings lift us up in a different world, it is poetic, delicate and moving.

- Véronique Byrne, De Jade En Fil

The painting does not belong to her. She (Gisèle) is just the medium. The painting is for someone who needs it. When that happens, you can really see it - feel it.

Marcel Tchitchiama, Husband of Gisèle