

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE THROUGH COLOUR

An exhibition of contemporary art works by Svetlana Panov.

Opening Speech by Lorraine Maggs

Friday, 1 September 2017

"Art does not reproduce the visible; rather, it makes visible." Paul Klee.

Svetlana Panov is making visible her painted mark-making by the use of line movement & colour.

What is mark making? Does it just mean dots, scribbles, and brushstrokes? What do expressive qualities add to the look and feel of an artwork?

Paul Klee also said - *"A line is a dot that went for a walk."*

Close your eyes and picture it. A dot steps through the door; heads down the path, one step at a time, and soon you have a trail of dots ... a line.

Paul Klee (early 20th century) was an influential Swiss-born painter and printmaker. His diverse body of work cannot, however, be categorized according to any single artistic movement, or "school." His paintings, which are at times fantastic, childlike, or otherwise witty, served as an inspiration to many artists of the later 20th century.

Klee would compare the visual rhythm in drawings to the structural, percussive rhythms of a musical composition. Klee challenged traditional boundaries separating writing and visual art by exploring a new expressive, and largely abstract or poetic language of pictorial symbols and signs.

Svetlana uses gesture to express her feelings and emotions in response to something seen or something felt – mark making describes the different lines, dots, marks, patterns, and textures we create in an artwork. It can be loose and gestural or controlled and neat. It can apply to any material, used on any surface: paint on canvas, ink or pencil on paper, a scratched mark on plaster, a digital paint tool on a screen, a tattooed mark on skin...even a sound can be a form of mark making.

Bearing in mind Svetlana's earlier career where her work expressed a strong sense of realism and structure we are invited tonight to witness a formidable explosion of free-flowing, looping and swirling compositions in the new Club Maroni Gallery space.

She now uses a more felt approach allowing her thoughts to evolve through marks, forms, and colour. **Her art style is unique.** She incorporates elements of spirituality, tribalism and psychedelic imagery into each of her paintings to create scenes that are abstract yet contain hints of reality. Each painting is filled with a sense of movement and animation. It's as though she is in the midst of a wild imagining, trying to spark her audience's sensory awareness as they experience her work.

Svetlana believes in working intuitively because it challenges her temptation to rely upon an educated consciousness; applying her **initial instincts** when making decisions regarding the colours, textures or lines. Every piece of work she makes is of the moment, searching for the strange, embracing the jarring and always demanding a second look.

Svetlana's use of colour is also intriguing. She offsets bright colours against more modest hues so that the viewer's eye is drawn to one or more focal points within the painting. The artist essentially assists the viewer in finding an anchor within the art work with which they can steady themselves while admiring the seemingly chaotic nature of the rest of the painting. Her use of colour also adds to the hallucinatory nature of her style – offering a mirror reflection of our inner worlds. Svetlana aims to capture the human psyche in all its oddities and unfathomable patterns.