

'Listen to Dimitri Shostakovich's 'Piano Concerto in F'- andante, and discover how he succeeds in making the unsayable hearable with an almost cinematic melody. I want to tell to you more about this aspect of our lives, the unsayable.'

Solange de Booij-Kirschen



Eyes | 120 x 100 cm | Acryl on linen

Listen to a nocturne by Chopin, a symphony by Beethoven, or a sonata by Mozart, and experience that music expresses what is lacking in words. With music as an art form, we enter the domain of the unsayable, of what cannot be put into words. This inaccessibility applies to many art forms like architecture, ballet, sculpture, and thus also to the art I practice, painting. All disciplines have one thing in common, MAN. Every artistic expression is a product of man. Without man there is no art. Let's take a closer look.

The unborn child, the fetus, has an inseparable relationship with its mother. Complete dependence on a protected world. Noise nowhere. There is unity. No room for miscommunication. After all, that could be fatal. The world... that is its mother's womb. A languageless world. Peace is cruelly disturbed by birth. The intense, and very intimate bond between mother and child is broken. The child will be catapulted into existence and cannot do anything else than just living it. That is facticity. An unwanted farewell.

And then, as a total surprise, the isolation is broken buy the discovery of language.! Words will be revealed to the child. The outside world, into which all people have been thrown based on solidarity, provides the baby with words to replace the umbilical cord. The isolated living

space of the newborn will be demolished, and new means of communication appear. The child will be connected once more. This so-called re-connection is established by language. But it won't be as pure as it was in the womb, because hand in hand with language and speech come the evil fairies Miscommunication and Manipulation. The pure one-to-one relationship does not exist anymore. The world asserts itself, articulates itself. We stand face to face with life. Life is 'to be' and its most important characteristic is 'persevering in being' whatever the cost. In our linguistic world, where we are constantly

'A world without esthetical differences would be a nightmare'

conflicting, we start looking for anchor points, for things that make life bearable. We want to break through isolation and loneliness and return to the lost security. Back to that safe atmosphere, where everything is pure, and to what is TRUE. As the years go by, the longing grows and memories and secrets that are stowed away in the memory banks of our brain, reveal themselves in fragments. Increasingly we seem to be falling short. It becomes more difficult to express feelings into words. >>



L'Amour incompris | 140 x 100 cm | Acryl on linen

And then... then there is ART. A new domain. We enter into a world of imagination, of sound, of distortion. A world, where language has been put between brackets because it is not sufficient. The unspeakable is expressed in a different way. In color, music, movement, shape. Once again, human being is the

starting point, but this time as artist. What has been created is nothing more or less than a subjective expression by a man or woman. A newly created world, where we can experience our daily reality from a different perspective. Language has found a new home. As an artist you usually reveal your deepest feelings like

sorrow, outrage, fear, amazement, and faith in a language that is usually understood by people who look at or listen to works of art regularly. Yet, it does not have to be a goal of a work of art that the observer actually 'sees' or 'experiences' the personal expression that the artist 'tells, expresses' with his or her work. Anyway, we recognize and rediscover ourselves again in art. A desire is fulfilled. Art as a magic way to search for unity with creator and created. Like mother and child. In art, we tend to avoid the definitions and conventions that language imposes on us. In a way we might even feel at home again. Back in the womb. We touch the two-unit for a moment. We got to know BEAUTY.

Many of us strive for a long life and try to collect a wide variety of valuables during our lifetime. However length times width indicates a surface. Indicates superficiality. It is only by incorporating depth (art, music, art of living) that the content is created. Length times width times height. Here, age is just a mathematical factor. In addition to moral values -the values we share-, there are values that depend on our differences in individuality, characteristics, style, elegance, or charm. These are esthetical values. Critical for a life that wants content, that wants depth. A world without esthetical differences would be a nightmare. If you really like something very much, you want your partner or friends to like it too, but you

don't want everyone to like it. That idea is terrible. That's why cultural differences are so important, because they are the reason that different people like different things. From the point of view of beauty, a dominant culture is undesirable to say the least. Our reaction to beautiful people and to beautiful things is that they give you a good feeling and that they get the best out of us. Our finest characteristics will be revealed. The things I love, are the things I try to understand and interpret. What follows from this is always something beautiful. In other words, beauty produces more beauty. Having arrived here I want to leave the realm of art behind us. A new horizon is emerging. There is a land where we will we find another form of art. The art of living.

'Every expression of art has been, is, and will be a product of man'

THE ART OF LIVING is all about developing a unique personality. Famous artists are always people who are special individuals. The differences between us make us unique. The art of living makes us realize that there are always many more opportunities in life, than you ever considered possible. The art of living reveals what you really like to do, where your

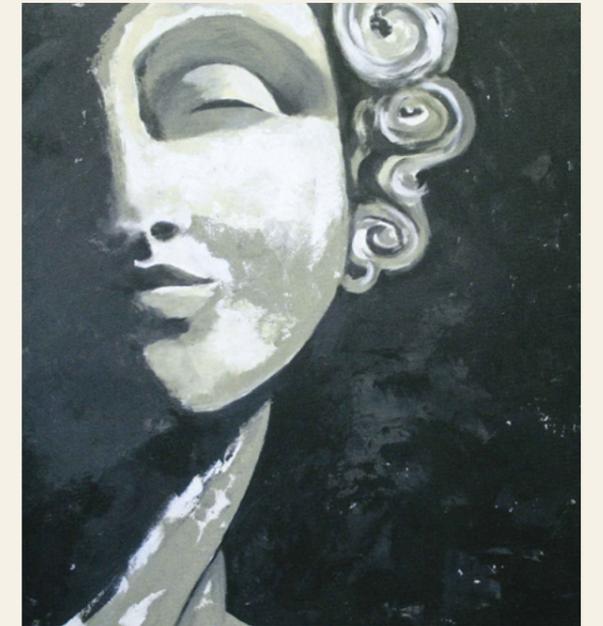


Prémonition | 120 x 90 cm | Acryl on linen

passion lies. This art is about 'becoming who you are'. And every individual has a task to develop his possibilities to the fullest, which is a voluntary assignment given by the one and only commander, your own inner voice: 'find the GOOD'.

It requires a special strength in fulfilling this mission, to deal with destiny, with life. Nietzsche wanted us to embrace fate. He called for a heroic 'amor fati' (love thy fate) and he added: 'all that doesn't kill me, makes me stronger'.

The art of living in encounter with fate. The world seemingly collapses, and the road seems to be nothing more than a cul-de-sac, but in reality, the world unfolds itself to you. Crises are the fault lines in your life and force you to change direction. When you look around you, you will see people struggling with ambitions to be or to become someone. But in a state of crisis you already know who you are, and that you have always been someone. Whatever it may be, fate challenges man to determine this position. It defies us, but at the same time, gives us the opportunity to show courage. Our life is the only thing we have, and thus we can't do anything else than loving it. We are damaged, for sure! But that can be movingly beautiful. Beautiful... because in that what collapses and dissolves, the truth is revealed. Artists are able to show this decay.



Contemplation | 100 x 100 cm
Acryl on linen

A life-artist knows all of this and is still capable to enjoy the moment and the little things in life, instead of living in the past, in the future or with fear of his fate. Thus, as the years pass by, we keep on searching for TRUTH, BEAUTY and the GOOD. As the search progresses there is a growing awareness that we ourselves are in the way. We wish a lot, but we often cannot fulfill our desires. That is what I would call our human shortcoming. The difference between wanting and not being able to deliver is suffering, and we just have to cope with that. The tireless search and pursuit of Platonic ideals... that is what ART OF LIVING really means. It might be an illusion, but don't our odyssey and our wish to go to our own island Ithaka start the moment we are born? Let's desire from life the same as from a work of art that we want to experience over and over again.



Coming home | 100 x 120 cm
Acryl on linen

Let's try to see beauty in every day's life, let's defy fate and death.

*'The unsayable is expressed
in other ways; in color,
music, movement, shape'*

We interpret people, works of art, literature, music, films as beautiful or ugly. Timeless beauty is not only present in great works of art, it is also present in the people and in

the things that make our daily lives a little better. It is in the presence of our loved ones, in a work of art we encounter, in a melody composed by Shostakovich or in a ray of sunlight on a flower.

Beauty is not a set of characteristics. Beauty is actually in all that is. For those who want to see it. Beauty is a promise of happiness, the face of life!

The security in the womb, the struggle with language, the encounter with the inexplicable in art, the striving for harmony and strength, our unequal struggle against fate... ultimately all our desires will be fulfilled.