

Stäfa Silke Glättli celebrates an anniversary – for 45 years she has been exhibiting her works

Art As An Expression Of Her Soul

(The original article «Die Kunst als Ausdruck ihrer Seele» was written by Maria Zachariadis, the photo taken on November 5, 2007 by the press photographer Reto Schneider. © Zürichsee-Zeitung and Reto Schneider)

Painting for Silke Glättli means profession and vocation. Already with 23 years of age she had her first one - woman - exhibition in New York. Beginning on November 17, the artist of Stäfa presents her latest works in Rüti.

Maria Zachariadis

In summer one can meet Silke Glättli on the Stäfa - waterfront of the Lake of Zurich. No, not for sunbathing the light - skinned and red-haired lady has come here. At the Lake of Zurich, as everywhere in nature, the artist painter recharges her batteries, regains energy and love for life. Unless she is swimming she is sitting in a comfortable chair under a sun umbrella letting her eyes wander over the surface of the lake for hours.

Born 1939 in Hamburg she - even until today - considers it a great blessing to be able to live and paint at the Lake of Zurich, in such an enchanting landscape of light.

Whenever possible Silke Glättli paints and draws «en plein air» (in the open). If for once the easel remains at home she sucks in everything with her visual memory. Back in her «atelier» (studio), she transforms her impressions into paintings. Much more than the adventures in nature - horse-back riding, downhill skiing, scuba diving and parasailing to name only a few of her hobbies- she experiences this creative process as the even greater adventure. Again and again she «conquers» a new circle of subjects. Two years ago it was the desert of Namibia. This year she is exhibiting paintings of wild animals in the wilderness of Southern Africa. Most of the subjects however are still landscapes of the Lake of Zurich, Engadin and Wallis (famous Swiss mountain landscapes, explanation by Silke Glättli) and her flower paintings.

Lithographies and Etchings

Whether with oil on canvas or water colour on handmade French water colour paper, the range of techniques is wide. For her flower paintings in water colour she has invented a very special and unique wet-in-wet technique on Japanese paper. Furthermore Silke Glättli creates her lithographies directly on a special litho-stone. Her colour etchings, often combined with «Aquatinta», prove a solid technical ability, also her pencil drawings that are often reduced to a few lines.



Every year at least one exhibition: Silke Glättli, artist painter of Stäfa, in midst her world of pictures (Reto Schneider)

1971 Silke Glättli moved into her «Atelierhaus» (studio house) above Stäfa, with her husband. 1972 she participated in the group exhibition in the schoolhouse «Obstgarten», the event being the 1000 - year - celebration of Stäfa. The following year her son Markus was born. Well protected the only child grew up in the parents' world of art And also with the coming exhibition the 34 - year - old son is again going to help his mother with the organisation and transportation.

Courage and Persistence

«Have you always painted?», Silke Glättli is asked again and again. Her answer: «Yes, but the way of becoming an artist wasn't that easy.» It needed courage and persistence, in times, when emancipation was not a topic yet, as a young woman to pursue her own way without any doubt. For the parents it was definite: The talented daughter should at first learn «a real profession» to make a living of. «So I studied English and education and - after finishing my studies - immigrated into the United States», the until today adventurous woman is looking back.

In New York she financed her art studies with an office job, thanks to her knowledge of English. 1962 then - at the age of 23 years - her first one-woman exhibition in New York. After having saved up enough money from the sales of paintings and from translations, she took a trip around the world over Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand and India before starting her final «coming home».

Enchanting Oberengadin

(The landscape around St. Moritz, explanation by Silke Glättli)

«When I am painting, I forget the time and loose myself into the subject, and gradually out of the subject and myself the painting is coming into being», Silke Glättli tries to put into words her way of creating and adds: «Art to me is as important as the air to breathe. » When you look at her paintings you understand what she is talking about. Her pictures breathe, too, have a soul, touch you, enchant you. The painter knows how to catch the light of each time of the day and year, so that one is immediately taken in by the atmosphere.

The element water, difficult to represent in painting, is captured by the artist in her oil paintings as well as in her water colours. The landscapes of the «Oberengadin» seem to enchant you in a magic way: The forests appear in soft autumn colours, the mountain peaks are already covered with snow, and the silver glow on the Lake of Sils has got an aura, that lets you become part of the subject. And again and again in the subjects you feel her love for nature, the source of her inspiration.

An Art Book

The art book «The painter Silke Glättli», laid out and produced by her husband Walter Glättli, who died 4 years ago, documents the creative work of the artist of Stäfa, who has been an artist for over 50 years. This year she is celebrating her 45 - year - exhibition anniversary. The art book is available at the exhibition in Rüti. (mz)

Translation: Silke Glättli