

« Cosmogony » at the Espace Gainville from 4 to 22 June 2003

Espace Gainville invites you to discover the oeuvre of **ODILE FRACHET** between 4 and 22 June 2003. Her work translates a perfect osmosis between painting and sculpture in the service of a world that the artist reveals by calling into play the principle of opposition and complementarity. Enter into a surprising interplay of mirrors in which these two techniques echo each other.

Odile Frachet's workshop looks out onto a garden through a large bay window and continues outdoors into shade and light, in a beautiful house at the end of a leafy impasse, a country-like setting in the Parisian suburb of Courbevoie. The rest of the house is furnished with numerous art works, by definition all unique; their very presence in itself gives a rare charm and an undefinable atmosphere to the environment.

In the context of her activity as teacher, Odile Frachet asks her students to begin work in a spirit of spontaneity; reflection and analysis come only afterward. This is the artist's approach in her own work: a sort of venture into dangerous territory, to bring out the best in oneself. Is that not what Picasso managed to rediscover at the end of his life: the original inspiration of the child in the face of creation?

Her work

Odile Frachet moves indifferently between painting and sculpture. For her, there is no hierarchy between these modes of artistic expression, which she wields each in its turn, passing constantly between the two. She retains from her sculptor background her penchant for assembly and collage; and this quest for materials likewise comes through everywhere in her pictorial work. She includes in her works elements from nature, like wood for creation of doors, diptychs linked by string, to be viewed from both front and back.

Beginning with 1988, her sketches of forms on paper led inevitably to painting. From that time on, each attracted by the other, the play has all been between transparency and opaqueness, contrasts between warm and cool colors, and spatial volumes in response to the presence of the writing utilized in her painting.

It is clear that Odile Frachet is an accomplished artist. Through her production and numerous exhibitions in France and abroad, she is leaving her imprint on her times with her seething imagination in constant quest of harmony, balance and meaning in her oeuvre.

The Scene at Gainville

Taking into consideration the possibilities and spaces offered by the site of the exhibition, the artist has chosen to arrange her works in the form of series. The visitor can discover the series devoted to solar discs; another series proposing embarkations that according to Odile Frachet make it possible "to travel in the cosmos;" a series of doors that she also calls faces; memory scrolls that resemble horns; and, to sure, painting as response to sculpture which the artist likes to describe as "abstract representation". She utilizes pictorial language without referential anecdotes, leaving to the spectator liberty to recreate his own images indefinitely.

Do not miss this initiation path through art, an encounter that could change your relationship with painting and sculpture, so much is the oeuvre of Odile Frachet based on a mix of spontaneity and surprise.