

LISE DROST WINDOWS TO MEMORY
THE DELAND MUSEUM OF ART MAY 7 - JULY 2, 2004



Avatar 3 2004 Acrylic, collograph, silkscreen, collage on gatorboard 60 x 120 inches



York 2003 Acrylic, collograph, silkscreen, collage on gatorboard 60 x 120 inches

Lise Drost began Miami Dade College with the idea of becoming a novelist, but felt she should major in something more practical like illustration. The Art Department was not offering those commercial courses at that time and she was advised by me and other faculty members to pursue Fine Arts. She told me, "Visual communication provided me with more of what I was after than writing ever could, to establish a mood and a stage setting for a narrative that is going to happen, rather than constructing all the details of a story. Drawing was the medium I felt most comfortable with, and I thought my attempts at painting were clumsy. I had always worked in "mixed media" out of necessity as a kid, as my family did not have many funds for art supplies, so it seemed quite natural for me to combine crayons, watercolors, house paints, markers and whatever else I could get my hands on."

Trained as a printmaker, with an established career of making editioned prints, Drost has always felt drawn to working with mixed media on paper. She decided early on that painting on canvas didn't offer her enough options for image making. The prints and unique pieces could not exist as separate bodies of work – the paintings and drawings often suggested imagery to be pursued in editioned pieces and the prints frequently generated collage material for the paintings. The works in this exhibition are smaller works on paper and larger works on gatorboard, which involve a lot of collaged printed material.

In this exhibition of recent works we are offered a view into another place. The paintings and drawings create the illusions of shallow spaces occasionally punctured by "windows" opening into other spaces. The pieces for the most part remain quite flat, are overlaid with fragments of maps or drawings, and keep reminding the viewer that these are objects to be looked at, but also pictures to be looked into. Drost combines various media in these pieces in order to mirror the different means we use to represent any given object or place – drawing, painting, photographing or mapping it. There is a great deal of silkscreen and relief printing from collagraphs which are then reworked with acrylic paints, oil crayons and colored pencils. The basis for many of the works seems to be a wall-like texture where torn paper edges morph into edges of map-like forms, upon which drawn marks are laid over the found textures, and curving forms are balance against geometric structures or regulated patterning. Plant forms grow out of and interact with these intricate backgrounds. She uses patterns and colors to support the mood of the place.

Her interest in prints was peeked in her first printmaking class with Doug Moran at Miami Dade College and then at Florida International University, Miami, in the 1970s. Going on to her MFA degree at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, she studied with printmaker Robert Malone, who was also an accomplished painter and encouraged her to do both. She still, however, chose to work on paper and thought of the pieces as drawings or collages. In the mid 1980s she moved to Oregon and she took up painting again, this time on paper and wood. While the work received favorable attention, it was really moving back to South

Florida and setting up her studio there that she began to seriously pursue painting again.

Much of her imagery is derived from her immediate South Florida environment. She was raised in Miami and then left the area for graduate work in Illinois. She followed Artist in Residence teaching opportunities to Pennsylvania, Oregon and Wyoming. At a certain point she decided to return to South Florida when she became keenly aware of how her surroundings influenced her work. Many of the vine and root forms are derived from a fascination she had (during high school) with the ficus tree, which is prolific in the South Florida landscape. The tree has a very shallow root system with most of the roots being above ground. It is unique in that it sends roots up and branches down, and grows in both direction ending up entwined about one another much like figures in a very tight embrace. Her interest in drawing from these kinds of natural forms disappeared during her college years and then returned as a prominent element upon her return to Miami.

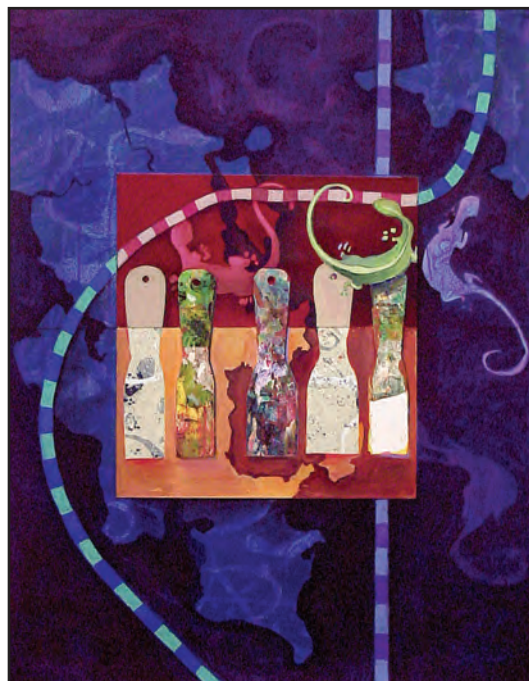
Ultimately she wanted to work in a place that would have a positive affect on her imagery and palette. Some of the images refer to other places, particularly YORK and DRAWING 15 with small glimpses into more barren landscapes, while others reference maps of imaginary places found in literary works of fantasy and science fiction. The maps were more evident in her previous two museum shows at the Lowe Art Museum in 2000 and the Polk Museum of Art in 2001. For this exhibition the map imagery is still there with compasses, borders, and topographical shapes. There is less text and fewer specific references, leaving the door more open to the interpretations of the viewer. Drost states that she would like the work to be a starting point for the viewer's own reflections and this body of work seems to accomplish this objective. Earlier works, particularly the prints, tended to fuse the foreground and background images together into a chaotic overload of information, color and pattern, whereas the layers of space in these new works are much more distinct. She has written in the past that the work was about sorting out the jumble of information and images in her head while these pieces seem to be about more specifically chosen moments and images.

Larry G. Griffin
Professor of Art, Retired
Miami Dade College

Larry Griffin retired from Miami Dade College in 1999 where he taught painting, drawing, modern art history and art appreciation. His teaching career spanned thirty-eight years. In 2000 he moved with his wife Marcia to DeLand, Florida where he devotes his time to painting. His work may be seen at Wolf's Gallery, DeLand and Arts on Douglas, New Smyrna Beach.



Chameleons 2003 Acrylic, collograph, silkscreen, collage on gatorboard 60 x 120 inches



Drawing 13 2004
Acrylic, silkscreen, collograph, relief linoleum,
collage on paper 36 x 28 inches

Drawing 5 2003
Acrylic, colored pencils, lithograph, silkscreen,
collograph, collage on paper
36 x 28 inches

Drawing 15 2004
Acrylic, silkscreen, lithograph, collograph,
colored pencils, collage on paper
36 x 28 inches

Drawing 11 2004
Acrylic, spray paint, silkscreen, collograph,
collage on paper 36 x 28 inches

Drawing 4 2003
Acrylic, colored pencils, collograph, inkjet,
collage on paper 36 x 28 inches

Lise Drost

Education:

MFA Printmaking 1983 Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
BFA Fine Arts 1980 Florida International University
AA Fine Arts 1978 Miami Dade College (formerly Miami Dade Junior College)

Solo and Two person exhibits:

2004 The DeLand Museum Deland, Florida
Auburn University Biggin Gallery Auburn, Alabama
2003 Bird in Hand Gallery Washington, D.C.
Two person exhibition Craig Flinner Gallery Baltimore, Maryland
Two person exhibition CAS Gallery University of Miami
2001 The Polk Museum Lakeland, Florida
2000 The Lowe Art Museum Coral Gables, Florida
1999 St. Thomas University Miami, Florida
Books & Books Coral Gables, Florida
Miriam Perlman Gallery Chicago, Illinois
Bird in Hand Gallery Washington D.C.
1997 The Capital Gallery Tallahassee, Florida
1995 University of Dallas Irving, Texas
Two person exhibit Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
1994 The Casements Cultural Center Ormond Beach, Florida
The New Gallery University of Miami Coral Gables, Florida
1992 Bird in Hand Gallery Washington D.C.
1986 Two person show Ucross Foundation Ucross, Wyoming
Two person show Augusta College Augusta, Georgia
1985 Northwest Artists Workshop Portland, Oregon
1983 Wagner Gallery Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Grants and Fellowships:

Research Grants, University of Miami 2003, 2002, 2001, 1998, 1996
Sabbatical Leave University of Miami 2002-2003
Provost's Grant for Innovative Teaching University of Miami 2001
Instructional Advancement Grants University of Miami 2001, 2000, 1999, 1997

Max Orovitz Summer Research Awards University of Miami 2000, 1999, 1997
Florida Individual Artists Grants 1999 -2000, 1993-1994
Brandywine Workshop Fellowship grant Philadelphia, PA 1993
Ucross Foundation Artist in Residence grant Ucross, WY 1986
Oregon School of Arts & Crafts Portland, OR Artist in Residence grant 1984/85

Millersville University of Pennsylvania Artist in Residence grant 1983-84



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