



The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Irina Dascalu

An Erotic Exotic Christmas

December 9 - January 11, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Irina Dascalu

Julie Oakes

With the hand of a European master, Irina Dascalu exhibits the head of a European mistress. She exposes herself, not blatantly, but after a courting period, a series of lunches and discrete visits and then she extends the invitation into her boudoir. In the soft light that glows from the vestiges of the past, the firm discipline born of tradition sheds a clue to the complex nature of the artist.

Her ability to render is sure. The wealth of taste coupled with the knowledge of great works done in studios lit in the past, under colored skylights or illuminated by southern exposures bleeds through to the present century. Her ability to surrender is not so secure. The dark renaissance background with the female figure glowing as if lit by a bank of candelabras placed on heavy furniture in a castle is misted by striped wisps. She is wrapped in cellophane so that the bulbous flow of breast and hip is smothered into pressurized folds like a shrink wrapped chicken. Yet, she is still sexy, seemingly squirming, ready to be unwrapped and used, her juices marinated by the breathless shroud. Like the biblical phrase "giveth and taketh away", she has been complicit in the bondage. She is awake. She is exploring arenas that many women cannot bear to acknowledge existing, the female - objectified, packaged and ready to be picked. It is because Irina Dascalu is strong, and like Houdini, knows how to break free of bondage, that she is not only able to tackle the subject matter but brings to it inimitable insight. The woman bound is Irina. The artist who is presenting the woman bound is Irina and the woman who is breaking free of any psychological bondage is irrevocably Irina Dascalu. For once these images have been entered in the great image bank of art history, they have been exposed and the perpetrator who denies liberation is brought to trial and condemned.

Irina Dascalu has, in the past, drawn and painted women's bodies where the identity has always been hidden, the face covered or severed by the boundaries of the page. In this recent series, Irina reverses the captured moment like a flash that can only be developed as a negative. With the body wrapped and the head flung back, eyes shut and silence waiting to be broken, who is in control here? Only one, the artist, Irina Dascalu. She knows absolutely, who and what is being given or taken away.



Black Socks 1
charcoal on paper, 43 x 27 in
2006



Black Socks 2
charcoal on paper, 43 x 27 in
2006



Black Socks 3
charcoal on paper, 43 x 27 in
2006



Reclining Nude 1
pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in
1999



Reclining Nude 2
pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in
1999



Reclining Nude 3
pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in
1999



Reclining Nude 4
pastel on paper, 48 x 36 in
1999



Reclining Nude 5
pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in
1999



Reclining Nude 6
pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in
1999



Reclining Nude 7
pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in
1999

Irina Dascalu

Born in 1952 Romania. In 1975 graduated (B.A.) from the Bucharest Academy of Romania. Emigrated to Canada in 1981 and currently lives and works in Toronto.

Activity

- 1975-80 Numerous personal and group shows in Romania
- 1981-84 Member of the Open Studio, Toronto
- 1982 Group Show, Merton Gallery, Toronto
- 1983 New Works, Gallery 44, Toronto
- 1984 Group Show, Kozack Gallery, Toronto
- 1985 New Works, Gallery 503, Toronto
- 1986 Group Show, Alliance Francaise, Toronto
- 1992 Personal Works-Retrospective Show, Bacau Romania
- 1992 Artist in residence "Rosetti Tescani-George Enescu" Art Foundation, Tescani Romania
- 1993 New Works, Del Bello Gallery, Toronto
- 1997 National Small Works Show, Montclair University, N.Y.
- 1999 The 5th Annual Pastel Competition, La Fond Gallery, Pittsburgh P.A.
- 1999 Nudes Pastel Drawings, Riverside Gallery, Toronto
- 1999 Artist in residence/show "Rosetti Tescani-George Enescu" Art Foundation, Tescani Romania
- 2000 175th Annual Exhibition, National Academy of Design, New York, N.Y.
- 1999-02 Riverdale Art Walk participations, Toronto
- 2003 Artist in residence Galeria "Petra M. Bohuna", Slovakia Awards
- 1978 Second Prize printmaking, National Printmaking Competition, Romania
- 1978 First Prize Satirical Art National Competition, Romania
- 1979 First Prize, National Drawing Competition, Romania
- 1999 2nd Honorable Mention, Pittsburgh P.A.
- 2002 Grand Prize, Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto

Bibliography:

Romanian Artists in the "West" I.Jianu, Paris France 1985

Irina Dascalu is represented in Bacau Museum of Art, Romanian and Canadian collections.

RICH FOG



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