

Virginia Orbon Retzmann



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I was born in Iriga City, in the Province of Bicol, in the Philippines; I studied Chemistry in Manila; from 1966 until 1989 I lived in Hong Kong where I worked in the Hotel- and Catering Management. Since 1990 I have been living in Friedrichsdorf/Taunus (near Frankfurt/Main) in Germany. I paint water colours and in acrylic on paper and canvas, realistic and abstract, whereby I predominantly concentrate on landscape, structures and figurative interpretations. Besides, I draw portraits and nudes. These, I also paint in water colours. Furthermore, I do collage, I use materials such as sand, saw dust, metal, wood, I paint on sacks, cardboard, whatever I can find and what can be used for my work.

I am a member of the Friedrichsdorf Art Association and the Bad Soden Art Workshop.

My education and training as an artist:

Art School Hille Koch, Frankfurt/Bad Soden,
Frankfurt Art Academy (Malakademie),
Association of Visual Artists (BBK), Frankfurt,
European Academy of Fine Arts, Trier,
High School for Visual Arts (Staedelschule) Frankfurt (Summer Academy)

Slade School of Fine Art/University College, London

Since 2005 I work with Michael Siegel, a renowned Painter and Art Teacher

In several joint exhibitions I donated the proceeds of the sale of my paintings to the following charities:

- Aid to the refugees from Kosovo (due to the Balkan war)**
- "Haus Miriam", for mentally handicapped people, Friedrichsdorf**
- A new domicile for the bears of Frankfurt Zoo,**
- "World Vision" to implement an irrigation project in Ethiopia**



"Set of Four" (without title) 2009 Acrylic on canvas at the exhibition of the Bad Soden Art Workshop in June 2008

Exhibitions since 1994 (amongst others):

City Libraries in Frankfurt and Bad Homburg,

Town Hall Friedrichsdorf,

Box Tree Cottage, Skipton, Yorkshire/England

Frankfurt Artist Association (Künstlerclub),

Frankfurt Airport Center

Cultural Center Rosbach

Galerie VG, Frankfurt

Eloquia Institute, Frankfurt

Frankfurt Art Academy (Malakademie)

Gallery in Eltville Castle

Frankfurt Trade Fair (Novotel),

as well as shows in Bad Soden, Friedrichsdorf-Köppern, Chandler/Arizona and Richmond/London and at numerous open-air art events in the Frankfurt region.



Discussing my work with visitors at an exhibition in Eloquia in June 2008

What I do and why:

"Before I moved to Germany I had no idea that I would ever learn to paint and to become an artist, although I should have remembered that my grandfather was a well known sculptor in the Bicol province in the Philippines and his work can still be admired in many churches and public places. I do not know whether artistic talent is inheritable; however, I am now convinced that he must have left some of this talent to me. My grandfather passed away many decades ago, but I am still very grateful to him for this precious gift.

I started painting "out of the blue" as one says, and I soon began to like what I did. Hille Koch, my first teacher, was very encouraging and she convinced me to apply for my first exhibition only two and a half years after I had started to paint. My first water colours were very subtle and restrained. I did not risk putting too much colour on paper as I feared that I would ruin the paper. I still keep doing this now and again, especially when painting with water colours. Over the years, I have become more daring and I experiment a lot. My teachers, who are very critical but also encouraging, as well as visitors to my exhibitions confirm that my work is unique and mature as far as technique, composition and colour application are concerned. This makes me very proud but by no means complacent. I want to do more, things I have never done before. After my first very successful exhibition in 1994 I began to venture into painting with acrylic, first on paper, later on canvas. My breakthrough came when I attended workshops at the European Academy of Fine Arts in Trier, where I studied under the guidance of the well known Scottish painter and teacher Joe Allen, who encouraged me to develop my own conception and style and advised me not to listen too much to

what others say. In my subsequent exhibitions I exhibited, besides water colours, also my acrylic work. The press reviews of all these shows were downright positive and very encouraging and pushed me to carry on and try different things.

Painting has become a very important, maybe the most fulfilling aspect of my life. I paint always, even if I am not in front of the easel with a brush or a scraper in my hand. I watch, I perceive, I observe, wherever I am. I always think of how to artistically convert what I see, although I do not extensively plan, most of my paintings are spontaneous and unconventional. I do occasionally sketch before I paint, but then the painting may turn out to be entirely different. All my paintings bear a meaning, but this meaning is not predetermined, it mostly develops and appears during the work process. I do not copy either, the draft of what I want to do is stored in my mind and I may modify or change it completely, if I think it is necessary and may benefit the final outcome.

In 2004 I began to work with Michael Siegel, a Frankfurt based well-known painter, graphic artist and teacher, and it was he who encouraged me to follow my very own ideas and intuitions and above all, to foremost develop and complete my work to my own satisfaction. I explore a lot, I try techniques and colour combinations that may seem odd to the conservative viewer and cannot be found in a textbook. Some people call me rebellious.

As long as I am satisfied with what I am doing, it does not bother me. My satisfaction comes first. This may sound conceited but it does not mean that I do not listen to advice or criticism. I enjoy entering into a dialogue with people who come to see my work and I always remember what they had to say. However, as an artist I work foremost for myself. If I did not do that, I would lack honesty and veracity.



Having arranged my paintings for the Kunstkreis Exhibition in Mediatour, Friedrichsdorf, October, 2009



Paintings in Acrylic at my exhibition in Mediatour, Friedrichsdorf
October 2009



Figurative Paintings (set of two) 2009, Acrylic on Canvas as exhibited at
Mediatour, Friedrichsdorf, in October 2009



Talking to Michael Siegel (left) and my husband, who delivered the opening address, at the opening of her 3rd show at Friedrichsdorf Town Hall

Paintings in Acrylic



Faces, Acrylic on canvas, 2009, 50x100 cm



**"Womens' Gathering (Extract) 2007 Acrylic on Canvas, 70
By 200 cm**



"Caves" (Set of Two), 2008, Acrylic on Canvas 100 cm by 70 cm



"Shakespearean People" 2007, Acrylic on Canvas, as exhibited in a Group Exhibition in Atelier Siegel, Frankfurt/M. July 2008



"Dyptichon" figurative paintings, 2009, Acrylic on Canvas
Long Format as exhibited at my exhibition at NH Hotel Frankfurt City, July until September 2010



"Structures" Acrylic on Paper, 2004, 70 by 100 cm



"Furious" 2007 Acrylic on Canvas, 70 cm by 100 cm



"Avatar" Set of three, 2009, Acrylic on canvas, 70 by 100 cm



"Red Square 1", 2009, Acrylic on Canvas, 70 cm by 100 cm



"Red Square 2", 2009, Acrylic on Canvas, 70 by 100 cm



"The Tempest" 2008, Acrylic on Canvas, 70 cm by 100 cm

(This Painting was auctioned for the benefit of an irrigation project in Eritrea, organised by "World Vision" on the occasion of the Friedrichsdorf Art Fair in June 2009)



"Turbulence" 2009, Acrylic on Canvas, 70 by 100 cm



**"Good Morning Arizona", 2009, Acrylic on Canvas, 70 by 200 cm
(This painting is in the possession of Thomas and Cherame Melita,
Chandler, Arizona)**



"Floating Structures" (set of two) Acrylic on Canvas, 2009, appr. 50 by 40 cm.



"Harlequin", Acrylic on Canvas, 2009, 150 by 200 cm



Triptychon "Hong Kong", Acrylic on Canvas, long format, 2010 as shown in my exhibition at the NH Hotel Frankfurt City, July until September 2010



"Passing by", Acrylic on Canvas, 2010, 120 by 200 cm



"The Tempest 2", 2008 Acrylic on Canvas, 70 by 100 cm



"Sleeping Brothers", Acrylic on Canvas, 2010, 70 by 100 cm



"Couple resting", Acrylic on Canvas, 2010, 70 by 100 cm

Water Colours:



At the opening exhibition of the Friedrichsdorf Kunstkreis in November 2008, where I mainly showed water colours



Early Water Colours from 1993 to 1999, various sizes up to 50cm by 70 cm



"The Bears" Water Colour 2005; the "twin" of this was together with two more of my paintings exhibited at the Zoological Society in Frankfurt in December 2006 and auctioned for the erection of a new enclosure for the bears at Frankfurt Zoo.



"Boats" 2004, Water Colour, 57 cm by 76 cm



Canyon Lake I, 2001, Water Colour, appr. 50 cm by 70 cm



Canyon Lake II, 2001, Water Colour, appr. 50 cm by 70 cm



"Snow in Flagstaff" 2004, Water Colour, appr. 50 cm by 70 cm



"Apache Trail", 2004 Water Colour (Collage) appr. 50 cm by 70 cm



Landscapes 2000 to 2004, Water Colour, various sizes, up to 50 cm by 70 cm



Garden of Eden, 2006, Water colours, appr. 60 cm by 50 cm



Abstract Figures, 2008 - 2009, Water Colour, various sizes, up to 77 by 56 cm



Catalonian Scenery, 2009, Water Colour, 50 by 64 cm



Creek near Sedona, 2009, Water Colour, 46 by 61 cm

Nudes and Portraits



Figurative paintings in water colour 2004
Sizes are appr. 40 by 30 cm



Figurative paintings, Acrylic, 2005
Sizes are appr. 32 by 24 cm



Figurative paintings water colour 2006



Figurative paintings, water colour, 2007
Sizes vary from 32 cm by 24 cm to 40 cm by 30 cm



Figurative paintings, water colour, 2007
Sizes vary from 32 cm by 24 cm to 40 cm by 30 cm



Faces, Water Colour, 2006



Faces, Water Colour, 2006

Sizes vary from 32 cm by 24 cm to 64 by 50 cm



Faces, Water Colour 2007
Sizes vary from 32 by 24 cm to 64 by 50 cm

General Information:

The paintings shown in this catalogue represent only a small part of my work to date. If you are interested to see more of my work, please feel free to contact me at any time.

I do not like to quote prices in a catalogue. However good the photograph of a painting may be, it is not the original. It is also difficult to imagine the original size, even if the measurements are given. One ought to see the original before making a decision.

However, since some of the above paintings were sold already I can give a kind of guideline as to what people are prepared to pay and what kind of price I would accept.

Acrylic on Canvas (as shown in this catalogue):

"True Blue" was sold for € 350
"The Tempest" was auctioned for € 300
"The Space Between" was sold for € 350

Water Colours (as shown in this catalogue):

Some of my "Early Water Colours 1994 to 1999" were sold for € 150 to € 250
"The Bears" was auctioned for € 235
"Landscapes 2000 - 2004" are available at € 230 each
"Garden of Eden 2006" are available at € 250 each
"Canyon Lake I and II" are available at € 300 each
"Abstract Figures 2008-2009" are available at € 275 each

The prices for my Figurative Paintings and Faces, which are predominantly in water colour, vary between € 100 and € 200.

Please note that prices quoted do not include charges for packing and postage.

Whilst every care has been taken to provide correct sizes/measurements, please enquire by e-mail in case of doubt.

If you want to view paintings in my studio, please arrange for an appointment by e-mail or phone. In case you would like to be notified of my future exhibitions, please inform me accordingly.

Please note that water colour paintings are sold without mount.

November 2009
Virginia Orbon Retzmann

