

LEONILDE CARABBA and the inner light of her message.

Condensed into a most beautiful portfolio of serigraphs, LeoNilde Carabba's life experience shines forth with the inner light of her message.

LeoNilde Carabba's life was linked early on to a special type of culture, a culture understood in terms of an investigation of successive levels of consciousness. Carabba's art gives me the acute intuition of just this theme --the connecting thread of these multiple experiences-- through the language of her images, images which are really image-symbols. The artist moves from one extrem of abstract art (The Servant of Timeless Beauty) to the other extrem, that of symbolic syncretism (The Alchemical Fire of Trasformation). Between start and finish, two intermediate stages illustrate the progressive evolution of her thought from a seismic vision of the world (Aaron of the Mountain) to an iconographic ordering of the natural elements (The Hercules Pillars).

The four visual statements, with their chromatic variations, are part of a mental order which reveals their logical progression. The artist's experience has been above all that of her own times, of its psychology, sensations, and emotions, which she inserted into the time-space framework of consciousness. All these mental and emotional dimensions of this image comes from her living present infused with memories. The beauty of her symbolic language is created by emotional inspiration; a language born of a sensitivity structured into generic symbols. It is her individual experience that infuses the symbols with their seductive power of communication over us.

Seeing the iconographic sequence within Carabba's portfolio in this way, I feel as though I am seeing a lightning vision of a flashback from her past..... perhaps because the artist is an old friend that I haven't seen in a long time, or because the formal references of her images are just naturally congenial to me. But I am prone to believe that any anonymous viewer would have a similar impression. It should be enough just to focus a moment's attention on LeoNilde Carabba's lyric morphology to grasp the obvious truth: this kind of painting is done with heart, skin and blood. The message's semantic value comes from her living commitment to being a witness to this basic revelation: without the co-existence of the past in the present, we lose our global sense and our communicative energy.

Internalizing this type of symbolic language means being ready to learn new lessons from life, and being capable of demonstrating total openness in the encounter with one's own destiny. If these images of Carabba's are beautiful, it is because they give us a sense of fraternal feeling, a sense of solidarity and of complicity in accepting our common existential challenge: to try to live a little better, to feel a little happier, to act with greater expansiveness. LeoNilde Carabba's message is to call to face the existential order of things, to become more aware of our own reality.

Pierre Restany - Milan, December 2, 1985 -