

CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL EX-LIBRIS ARTISTS



PORTUGAL

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ORTANSA MORARU

Julie Oakes

The curator of the Headbones Gallery

Ortansa Moraru's descriptive spaces are not worlds of complete freedom, but tangled and embroidered flights of fancy that imply existences other than those from which we have learned to escape. We are confronted by a maze-like frequency of turns and barriers that interrupts our expectations with a jag in an unexpected direction.

Consider the grain. When a perfect curve is unfolding and it hits the grain, the intrinsic path of the wood - the life lines and indications of history trip the wandering line and shift the pathway. It is similar to building

a nest when the grasses and branches are woven into place by an intelligence that is unaware of mathematics and engineering, like a bird's, yet understands how to build the nest from the inside of it's being. The nest building gene is a part of their make-up. So it is with Ortansa Moraru's detailed woodcuts. They map an inner dimension that translates into marks familiar yet unique.

There is a subterranean feeling to the habitats. The stripes of wood with dots appear to be thicker dimensions from which the cartoon-like images are trying to free themselves,





sending up air bubbles, as in "The Hearing Sense" or as the title suggests letting dancing sounds into a receptive ear.

Whether as a single image or in the multiple woodblocks, Ortansa Moraru's woodblock prints are striking, complicated linear messages. She has successfully utilized the traditional play between the stark black line, printed from the wood left raised as the area around it was gouged away, and the snowy white paper. The tones between the black and white relying on lines, fine to thick and constructed in reverse, reveal the mental dexterity required. Moraru's tangled layering, alongside the deep lushness of perfect inky blacks, presents us with a dynamic field of tension and relief.

ORTANSA MORARU

Curriculum vitae

Ortansa Moraru was born in 1968, in Romania. After working as an Art Teacher at the "Marin Sorescu" High School of Arts in Craiova, Romania, she immigrated to Canada and worked in Toronto since 2002. Ortansa Moraru began doing woodcuts in 1987 under the supervision of Dafinel Duinea, a Romanian self-taught printmaker. Ortansa earned her MFA and B. Ed. in 1997 from The Western University of Timisoara having Constantin Catargiu the Lithography Professor. From Suzana Fantanariu, Ortansa learned Drawing, Composition and the hand pulled Woodcut technique.

Ortansa Moraru was awarded with the first Scholarship in 1993 at the 4th European Biennial of Fine Arts Academies in Maastricht, Holland, in the Masterclass Section, with Professor Luciano Fabro. Another two Scholarships were awarded to her from the "Dante Alighieri" Cultural Society in Rome, Italy, in 1996 and 1998. She is a professional artist with exhibitions across Europe, Asia and North America. Since her arrival in Canada, Ortansa was awarded with the Third place prize in Italy at the IV International Biennial of Graphic Arts, Francavilla al Mare in 2006, Juror's Award in 2007 at the Glenhyrst Art Gallery, at the Juried Drawing Exhibition, Brantford, Third Prize-Abstract at The Society Of Canadian Artist's 41st Open Juried National Exhibition Todmorden Mills, Papermill Gallery and recently - Arts / Social Justice Award of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Ortansa Moraru is a member of the Society of Canadian Artists and Ontario College of Teachers and she is also a Honorary Member of The Drawing Society of Canada.



