

Palm Beach Daily News

Priscilla Heine leaves viewer to define meaning of art, now on view at Wally Findlay

ANGIE FAJARDO

April 1, 2012



Priscilla Heine's abstract expressionistic pieces are on view at Wally Findlay Galleries. Behind her is her 2008 'Under the Lilies.' *Palm Beach Daily News*

On view at Wally Findlay Gallery is Priscilla Heine's exhibit, "The Museum Collection." Heine is an abstract expressionist painter and sculptor exclusively represented by Findlay.

"Having met Priscilla in the mid-'80s in East Hampton (N.Y.), I became intrigued with her creative manner of painting," said James Borynack, Wally Findlay International chairman and CEO. "During that time she was beginning to explore and establish her activity of rhythms."

Heine says that while she paints, she feels as if she becomes part of her artwork. "I am reacting to the moment and trust my inner voice and unconscious as I paint," she said.

As do Willem de Kooning and other abstract expressionist artists, Heine said she paints in the present. "When I put a certain color or line on the canvas, it will draw me to make my next mark."

Heine's paintings overflow with color and bold brush strokes. She uses charcoal, oil, and oil on stick to create vivid earth tones and subtle pastels. The colors create vivacity and life in her paintings, which also have a great deal of movement, allowing the eyes to pull back and be drawn again.

“As a gallery that has always celebrated established talent through different movements of art, Heine brings to our distinguished stable an abundance of energy bursting with color, line and forms,” Borynack said. “Each work is a powerful performance on canvas.”

Several of Heine’s works start with an image of calla lilies in the background. She was inspired after visiting Portugal and seeing women in black dresses picking the flowers in a field. She also saw the calla lilies in vases at a Pyrenées restaurant. “I could hear the men and women talking in the restaurant, smell the food as it was cooking and see the beautiful calla lilies so elegantly displayed at our tables.”

The abstract expressionistic style of her paintings allows many different interpretations.

In *A Very Fine Woman*, the same thing happens. I initially saw an upside-down bouquet of lilies, but then new elements began to unravel: a woman sitting upright, the hat she was wearing, and her long dangling earrings.

The beauty is that there is no wrong answer. Heine’s paintings can take whatever form you choose.

“I see it as the viewer trying to find his way in a beautiful maze of color,” Heine said.

In recent years, she has practiced a new medium, bringing her paintings to life through three-dimensional sculptures made of clothes and collected artifacts. She works her sculptures in a similar manner as her paintings.

“It’s amazing to watch old rags and artifacts morph into something different,” she says.

Heine shapes the pieces using gesso, a prepared paste, then paints them with oils. The pieces are a continuation of her paintings: mysterious arrangement of colors and shapes left for the viewer to decide their meaning.