

Kéo Merlier Haïm

*An artist through
and through! ...
No matter what
profession Kéo
Merlier-Haïm
occupied in the
past, she always
considered her-
self as an artist;
and now that her
daily life is filled
up by art on a
full time basis,
she gladly
accepts the
privilege.*

ARTIST PAINTER

...but not only!



Her first love was with the theatre. A passion she discovers at thirteen while climbing up the theatre floorboards. Life then separates her from her artistic passions; she travels, raises two children, goes back to school and works in diverse "serious" professions all the while dreaming of writing, freedom and creativity and exploring emotions. She doesn't hesitate to leave it all behind when the opportunity to go back to the theatre presented itself. She becomes a playwright, film director and a theatre teacher. She takes writing further and becomes a novelist then script writer of a film about Paul Cézanne.

What about painting?

It's her escape route, a means of recreation and a way to get rid of tension. A canvas enables her to tell a story, externalize, question herself and share with others.

She has always drawn and painted by studying techniques with the help of books, taking classes and inquiring from other painters. She dares herself to try new techniques, curious to find out what is behind different strokes.

In love with Cézanne, she studies him, immerses herself in his past, his paintings and his favourite places. The magic behind the Master is thus at play: and Kéo can't stop painting! She gives up the pen and never lets go of her brushes! She is in front of her easel from nine in the morning and doesn't leave until nightfall because as Cézanne said:

*"Only practice allows us to evolve and understand.
Theory isn't everything. One must paint, paint and paint
until the brush is an extension of the hand."*

Her second wakeup call is Zao Wou Ki. His work has a revelatory effect on her and that makes her decide to take up abstracts – something that moves her deeply. In abstracts she can plunge into emotions, tell stories and share her reflexions.

*"The approach is the same whether I paint in small or big formats.
I bring forth an image that I have to transmit.
I'm always in the quest for Light. A light that enlightens us, brings growth to our Being and helps us to become better people. I'm looking for that inner genius that we ought to listen to, instead of hiding it, because we are afraid to be ourselves!
The immense Light that lives inside of us, making us shine and taking us up to higher ground. That is the kind of Light that inspires my work albeit the incessant search!"*

A friend encourages her to exhibit but she hesitates: Is she worthy to paint without having studied at the prestigious Beaux Arts? Her entourage insists until she decides to take part in her first exhibition. Despite being shy of showing her work, it is nonetheless remarked by Mr Latouche.

Today, the headquarters of FIDUCIAL in Lyon, proudly displays her 300x600 triptyque in its lobby.

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