

Juan Kiti and his art

Do you know Juan Kiti ? It will soon be improper to answer no. Actually, this artist is revealing himself to a growing public that is attracted by his works. Revelation of his art, in full maturity, and also revelation of a quite simple observation : people like his work because it is beautiful !

At a time where this end of the century is carrying along depression, failures and disillusion, an artist like Juan Kiti freshens us up with his way of looking at things. His pictorial work consists of movement, air, lightness, vivid and strong colours, humour.

In an article on this subject, René Boissin says about him : « Coloured joy explosions, harmonious lines, orchestrated lights, in his paintings. Original, surprising, affecting compositions, materialized dreams, in his sculptures. The same dynamic projections in his carpets and materials. Wealth of lines and harmonies in his relations between precious stones and metals. »

Or, resuming the imagined words of the art critic Michel Gaudet, who underlines relating to Kiti : « His star of brightness can be explained by the contrast, by the white backgrounds, immaculate as snow, through which run tremblingly fantastic brushes with dark and mate strokes. ».

Another expert comment : Marcel van Jole, vice-president of 'AICA, says about him : « Far from all fashions and trends, from all academicisms, from all avant-garde tendencies, Juan Kiti radiates his joy for his liberty of painting. His palette, rich as the colours of spring or of an Indian summer, does not yield to touches of colour with a dangerous reputation : golden yellow, sapphire blue and incarnadine find a perfect harmony between the most subtle and most contrary tones. »

Virgil Hammock (art critic – Montreal, Canada) looks more into his evolution : « Which direction Kiti will take in the future ? He has certainly already accomplished much more than most artists of his age. He has come out of nowhere, a self-trained enfant terrible who I am sure has scared the pants off his more traditional contemporaries with his rapid success. I am sure some people think he is a "flash in the pan", but they are wrong. His current work is very strong indeed. The most recent are contemporary versions of triptychs. Triptychs are, of course, a tradition that goes back many centuries in Flemish art, but Kiti's pieces are far removed from van Eyck or Memling. They are more akin to Joan Miró than the ancient Flemish masters. »

Already spotted by various artists and art lovers since the nineties in Belgium, where he is originating from, Juan Kiti crosses cheerfully the borders. One can find him in several collections all over the world. He realizes works with the assistance of, amongst others, Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Toots Thielemans and Barbara Hendricks. A great moment he appreciated : the realization of a common painting with Aboriginals from Arnhemland (Australia).

In Belgium, with the assistance of contemporary artists, he will hold the attention of the media by organizing several artistic events for the benefit of known humanitarian organizations. The events are linked together : he exhibits with Pierre Alechinsky, Arman, Botero, César, Corneille, Paul Delvaux, Niki de Saint-Phalle, ...

His early essentially pictorial work extends to sculpture, decoration and jewellery. In 1997, he represents Belgium at the Concours d'Art Contemporain in Monaco, he organizes another artistic gala under the gracious protection of Mrs. Jacques Santer. Great uncontested success, with the participation of Barbara Hendricks, Adamo, Paloma Picasso, Francis Lalanne, Paul-Loup Sulitzer and his friends Corneille and César. A full house with more than 700 people and a galaxy of exhibiting artists.

Juan Kiti accepts the invitation of more and more art lovers that appreciate his work. So he did not go unnoticed at the Côte d'Azur where, before exhibiting at the Sporting d'Hiver during the Monte Carlo Investment Forum and at the Yachting Club, he exhibited in Cannes, at the Palais des Festivals, and also at the SAS Radisson hotel in Nice. This last one brought together more than 60 very varied works. On his way between Antwerp, Paris and New York, where other exhibitions are waiting for him, we hope that Juan Kiti will find the time to come and charm us.

In 2000, Kiti will attend to the realization of an international contemporary art centre located in Zaventem with the patronage of his friends Botero, Adami, Folon Arman, Berrocal, Soto, Tápies, Lindström, Chillida, de Saint-Phalle, Hockney, Johns, Rosenquist, Christo and many other celebrities of the artistic world.

Beside various exhibitions in Belgium, he also plans exhibitions abroad. In the meantime he will realize the world's largest fountain and publish an art book about the Belgian kitchen revised by an artist.

An impression of all his artistic activities will soon be available on his own website.

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