


Landscapes...Land escapes

 If Calistoga is your favorite getaway, indulge yourself even more now, with the colors and light; they match the softness of our late summer—so pleasant around our hills.

Danièle Proner has caught this light in about twenty paintings on silk, now hanging on the brick walls of the Cafe Oh! La! La! This is an exhibition under the patronage of Mr. J. P. Filieu, Cultural Attaché at the French Consulate and Mrs. Ghislaine Hudson who was present, Sunday, Oct. 2, for a heartwarming reception and a gathering of friends and visitors around the artist.

Her palette of pastels—hues of blues, purples and greens—creates scenes of a pristine world where foxes, leopards, gazelles, elephants, lemurs, (Danièle's contribution to protect endangered species), all live in harmony with strange ferns, welcoming palms and huge grasses. They are pristine landscapes, but cultural landscapes too, such as the Charles Bridge in the painting "Carrousel Slave"—a vision of Prague where Danièle spent four years, studying stage design and architecture with Josef Svoboda.

For those who are wondering how it is possible to get such precise lines and contours, Danièle gladly speaks of her new technique of "aquarelle on silk" and explains how to combine water and alcohol, and how to use "gutta"...

When we enter these landscapes, we feel close to the Gipsy Woman by Henri Rousseau: a tranquility animated by a touch of peril, perceptible in the slightest distortion of a stem or the

 unusual proportion of a petal.

But what strikes the viewer, above all is the almost mythical image of the horse, jumping up in these primordial landscapes: the horse is both a solar and a lunar being, related, on a symbolic level, to fire and water; he passes easily from night to day, from death to life, from passion to action: spirit, fertility, generosity, conveyed by the mythical horse. Aren't they all striking in the mastered gesture of "Coulée de Lune", Danièle's latest composition? But let us not go any further into symbolic interpretations, Danièle does not like to speak about them and rather quotes Delvaux: "If I knew how to say it, I would not have painted it..." and rather considers that, "What I put in my paintings does not belong to me anymore," but belongs to her public.

From this collection of images, which are soothing for the eye and the soul, radiates the contagious energy of Danièle Proner who invites us, like in her painting *Le Secret*, to look from the inside of the landscape, through the tiny window that opens on what might be called "Serenity".

—Translation: Frank Jarolimek, 10th grade

Author: Marie France Weber