

David Findlay EST 1870

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Nina Meledandri “The Color Within” (Process as Product) March 7 - 28, 2003

The David Findlay Galleries will host an exhibition of recent abstract paintings by New York artist Nina Meledandri. The exhibition, entitled “The Color Within”, is the result of several years of daily interactions with her paintings. While the purpose of it is to showcase her dynamic images, an explanation of the artist’s unique creative process is important in understanding the finished product.

“The Color Within” runs March 7 - 28, 2003. It is composed of approximately thirty paintings on canvas, the majority of which are a combination of oil paint, wax medium and graphite. This will be the artist’s inaugural solo exhibition at David Findlay Galleries, located at 984 Madison Avenue at 77th Street.

Nina Meledandri’s abstract paintings are borne of a unique creative process involving genesis, destruction, rebirth and transformation. It is no coincidence that the themes that give rise to her paintings are analogous to the tenets that are common to many religions. Meledandri approaches her artwork as a meditation, a transformative process that allows her to transcend daily life and delve deeper into her own consciousness.

Process and product are inextricably linked. The human experience has always involved searching for answers, delving into the mysteries, asking why? Along the way come startling discoveries that continue to hold resonance for us. Some of us do this through religion, others through science and still others, through the arts. - Nina Meledandri

A complex duality exists in these paintings, which is at once harmonious and discordant. The polarity of these two opposing elements creates a compelling tension in the work. A struggle ensues between subtlety of color and strength of image, challenging the viewer to contemplate that which holds more power in such imagery: the obvious or the inferred, the immediate or the suggested?

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Such dynamism is not easily rendered in abstract paintings. Meledandri's method of creating these images is a uniquely original process involving additive and subtractive methods. She relies on the layering of medium as much as that of scraping and removal of it to manufacture her complex tableaux.

For example, the artist will paint an image on the canvas and then paint over it, creating a pentimento. She repeats this process over and over, building up many layers until she is satisfied with the result. She also employs a method of removing images by completely obliterating them from the canvas. This is achieved by either scraping the image off the surface or "whiting out" large sections of an almost completed work.

As viewers of this art, we are, of course, most concerned with the surface of the painting. However, the layers of pentimenti under the surface reveal 'ghost images' allowing the buried images to be reborn. The voids where the medium has been removed and the edges of the repainted parts give rise to textural qualities that are very much an integral part of the surface image.

When you begin a picture, you often make some pretty discoveries. You must be on guard against these. Destroy the thing, do it over several times. In each destroying of a beautiful discovery, the artist does not really suppress it, but rather condenses it, makes it more substantial. What comes out in the end is the result of discarded finds. Otherwise, you become your own connoisseur. – Pablo Picasso

A type of cycling occurs in my painting. For me, it is similar to peeling away the layers of an onion. With each removal one retains the form of the previous layer while discovering a more concentrated aspect. And with each removal comes a heightened anticipation of arriving at the essence or the truth. This movement that occurs on the process level, I hope translates, to a feeling of discovery for the viewer. - Nina Meledandri

Nina Meledandri's "The Color Within" is an exhibition dedicated to the artist's creative process. The methods she employs in making her art work and the process of executing these techniques is as important to her as the paintings themselves.

"Process as Product" is the virtual project through which the artist makes her journey available to the public. Exploring its various aspects allows one to peruse daily visual journals, to thumb through a virtual "flip book", experiencing how a painting develops or to follow the transformation of concepts and symbols as they have developed for the artist. "Process as Product" will be available for viewing during "The Color Within" and is on line at <http://www.meledandri.com>. Please contact the gallery if you wish to be sent a CD of this project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
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Gallery Hours: Monday through Saturday, 10-5 PM.