



Castello di Borghese, Inc
HARGRAVE VINEYARD

PRESS RELEASE

**Nina Meledandri: Windows To The Soul
paintings & drawings
Castello di Borghese
Route 48 & Alvah's Lane, Cutchogue, NY
March - September 2001**

Castello di Borghese is pleased to present New York painter Nina Meledandri. On exhibit are ten large oil paintings, created between 1994 and the present, which reveal an ongoing investigation of the collective unconscious as both a theme and a cornerstone of her work. An inveterate journal-keeper (both written and visual) this daily practice is evident in the paintings which utilize private imagery and an invented abstract writing to reflect their diaristic origins. On exhibit as well is a portfolio of watercolors which have also grown out of the artist's extensive daily journal keeping.

Meledandri's work contains elements both formal and organic, conveyed through a palette ranging from rich earth tones to deceptively "sweet" pastels. Like Rorschach's, they allow viewers to project their own fantasies and impressions on the work. For some, the organic imagery may provide a connection to a cyclical experience of nature, the turn of the seasons or the flow of life. For others, they may invoke a sensation of "looking out" - through doors and windows that appear in the work - and "looking in," suggesting both the possibility of discovery and of self reflective meditations, while fostering ambiguities both optical and psychological.

All of these works reflect Meledandri's relentless fascination with process, both in the creation of individual works and of works in series. "Periodically, a painting will materialize that I recognize but do not yet understand," says the artist. "My next body of work will then consist of the paintings that fill in the gap from where I am at present to this one piece that seems to have leapt in from the future." Included in **Windows To The Soul** are three such "leap" paintings along with seven of the paintings bridging the space between them. "Expectation", the final painting in this group, is the antecedent of the work she is currently producing for her next exhibition.

With roots in the traditions of abstract expressionism, Meledandri uses emotive gestures as representative of the unconscious both personal and collective. But she maintains as well, an extremely conceptual approach to looking at and investigating work, using media both traditional (the daily journal series) and virtual: "*A Relational Examination of Visual Themes and Symbols as Mapped Through An Exploration of Words and Their Resulting Imagery*" and the "*WIP (Work In Progress) Project*". The latter is accessible online at www.meledandri.com.

Meledandri, who grew up in New York, attended the Brearley School and Trinity College before receiving her BA from Hampshire College as a photographer. Her work has been exhibited by Monique Knowlton, Monique Goldstrom, Ute Stebich, Joyce Goldstein, The Drawing Center and Artists Space among others. Her collectors include: Bunny Dell, Caren Golden, Nancy Hagin, Fred and Winter Hoffman, Bill Nuss, Billy Squier, Elaine Weitzen, Migs and Bing Wright and the University of Massachusetts. Meledandri will show at the Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY in May. She continues to live and work in New York.

Castello di Borghese/Hargrave Vineyard is located on the North Fork of Long Island in the town of Cutchogue, NY. When the Borghese family became the new owners of Long Island's oldest vineyard they brought with them a long-standing tradition of patronage of the arts. In this spirit they have sought to establish their tasting room facility as a cultural destination by the transformation of a former potato barn into a gallery. **Windows To The Soul** is the third exhibition at Castello di Borghese, which is open daily 11am-5pm.

Visuals are available upon request

For more information on the artist visit www.meledandri.com
For additional information please contact Ann Marie Borghese at 631-734-5111

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Castello di Borghese
HARGRAVE VINEYARD

NINA MELEDANDRI
Windows To The Soul



EXPECTATION
oil, encaustic and wax medium on board
40" x 60", 2001



WINDOW TO THE SOUL I
oil, encaustic and wax medium on board
40" x 60", 2001

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