



ISLAND'S MYSTIC AND
ECHOES OF CLASSICAL
BEAUTY

NATALIA
BORČIĆ
PEUC



DANIELE
FORTUNA

Zen Contemporary Art
Gallery

NATALIA BORČIĆ PEUC
DANIELE FORTUNA

*Island's Mystic and Echoes
of Classical Beauty*

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Zen Contemporary Art Gallery

Island's Mystic and Echoes of Classical Beauty

Nova izložbena sezona u Zen Contemporary Art galeriji nastavlja se s izložbom *Island's Mystic and Echoes of Classical Beauty* recentnih radova mlade hrvatske slikarice, ujedno i dobitnice ovogodišnje nagrade na Bienalu slikarstva, Natalie Borčić Peuc i međunarodno priznatog talijanskog kipara Danielea Fortune. Oživljavajući ljepotu prirode u sinergiji s bezvremenskom privlačnošću klasične umjetnosti, dakako, u suvremenoj interpretaciji, izložba odiše kompaktnošću ugođaja i harmonijom vizualnih elemenata.

Natalia Borčić Peuc već je privukla pažnju javnosti i struke svojim prepoznatljivim slikama nadahnutim motivima svojega rodnog otoka Visa. Očaravajuća ljepota netaknute prirode, morski pejzaži, egzotične plaže, kao i bogata kulturna baština ovog otoka, Natalijina su neiscrpna inspiracija. Njena djela nisu samo umjetnički izrazi, već trajna svjedočanstva ljepote i nadahnuća koja vjerno čuvaju i prenose esenciju njenog rodnog otoka. Kroz gotovo apstraktne prikaze viških pejzaža, umjetnica majstorski prenosi suštinu i dušu ovog čarobnog mjesta, omogućujući gledateljima osjetiti njegovu energiju i ljepotu.

Na izložbi su predstavljeni radovi većih dimenzija iz njenog posljednjeg ciklusa, u kojem se tematski bavi plažama i morskim prizorima. Njene slike su prozori u svijet gdje priroda vlada, a ljudska prisutnost je tek blagi odraz neizmjerne ljepote i snage okoline. U izradi kompozicije kombinira apstraktne forme s figurativnim elementima, gdje se motivi ljudi i kupača naziru unutar slojeva apstrakcije. U ovoj seriji slika koristi intenzivan kolorit, u kojem prevladavaju nijanse plave i zelene s akcentima crvene, narančaste, ljubičaste ili žute boje. Svaka slika odiše autentičnošću, svaki potez kista i svaki sloj boje oživljava uspomene na kupanje u skrivenim uvalama, zvuk valova koji se lome o obalu, te miris soli i mediteranskog bilja u zraku. Mistična ljepota otoka, kroz oči i ruke umjetnice, postaje dostupna svima. Pogled na njene slike ne ispunjava samo naša osjetila, već hrani i dušu, pružajući trenutke unutarnjeg spokoja i harmonije.

U stvaralačkom procesu umjetnica se koristi različitim slikarskim metodama od kombinirane tehnike ulja na platnu i akrilnih boja do eksperimentiranja s različitim emulzijama, razrjeđivačima, kiselinama i uljima. Također često primjenjuje i tehniku drippinga, pri kojoj se boja spontano proljeva ili prska po platnu, stvarajući dinamične i nepredvidive oblike. Platna potom izlaže prirodnim elementima poput kiše i vode, omogućujući im da dodatno oblikuju završni izraz njezine umjetnosti. Interakcija s prirodnim elementima ne samo da rezultira bogatim i vibrantnim vizualnim doživljajem, nego i simbolično povezuje umjetnost s prirodnim ciklusima dopuštajući prirodi da postane koautor njenog djela. Rezultat tog procesa je bogat, slojevit i neobičan, organski nanos boja na platnima. " Boje, odnosno slojevi boja izgledaju kao da su organski narasli iz platna, djeluju poput algi i lišajeva koje nalazimo u prirodi..." - izjavila je autorica. Kombinirajući tehniku, spontanu interakciju s prirodnim elementima i emotivnu snagu motiva, umjetnica stvara djela koja govore univerzalnim jezikom prirodne ljepote i umjetničke ekspresije. Njen rad je više od pukog prikaza krajolika; to je duboko promišljeno istraživanje odnosa između umjetnika, prirode i gledatelja. Izložene slike podsjećaju nas na jednostavnost i veličanstvenost prirode koja nas okružuje, pozivajući nas da se s njom povežemo, da je osjetimo, doživimo, prigrlimo i očuvamo za buduće generacije.

Izložene skulpture talijanskog kipara **Danielea Fortune** dio su radova iz njegova posljednjeg ciklusa, koji se, kao i svi dosadašnji, fokusira na ljudsku figuru interpretiranu u duhu antičke tradicije, ali na način suvremene kiparske morfologije. Fortuna kroz svoje radove nastoji popularizirati likove iz klasične mitologije kojima se divio još od djetinjstva. Svaka skulptura sastavljena je od više ručno izrezanih drvenih dijelova koji se poput slagalice slažu u cjelinu i oslikavaju jarkim akrilnim bojama. Skulptura je dovršena tek kada je svaki dio, pažljivo i detaljno obrađen, postavljen na svoje mjesto.

Fortuna uspješno spaja pop-art s klasičnim oblicima, stvarajući jedinstveni most između prošlosti i sadašnjosti. Od skulptura s klasičnim motivima poput Venere i Zeusa do onih s pop motivima poput Batmana i Mickeyja Mousea, najpoznatije serije Danielea Fortune uključuju *Colormination*, *Heads Will Roll*, i *Thology*. Njegove zadivljujuće skulpture mijenjaju izraz iz svakog kuta promatranja, pružajući vizualnu i duhovnu ugodu.

Sam je umjetnik rekao kako je došao onaj trenutak u njegovu životu kada je osjetio potrebu podijeliti svoj unutarnji svijet s ljudima koji će ga razumjeti. Zapravo, umjetnost je njegov medij komunikacije kroz koji se želi povezati i emotivno komunicirati s drugima.



Natalia Borčić Peuc, *Svitnja s kolutom*, ulje i akril na platnu, oil and acrylic on canvas, 140x180 cm, 2024.



Daniele Fortuna, *Venus Medici*, wood and acrylic, 92x30x26 cm, 2024.

Island's Mystic and Echoes of Classical Beauty

The new exhibition season at the Zen Contemporary Art Gallery continues with the exhibition "Island's Mystic and Echoes of Classical Beauty", featuring recent works by young Croatian painter and this year's winner of the Painting Biennial Award, Natalia Borčić Peuc, alongside internationally recognized Italian sculptor Daniele Fortuna. Reviving the beauty of nature in synergy with the timeless allure of classical art, though interpreted through contemporary lens, the exhibition exudes a compact ambiance and harmony of visual elements.

Natalia Borčić Peuc has already garnered public and critical attention with her distinctive paintings inspired by the motifs of her native island of Vis. The enchanting beauty of untouched nature, marine landscapes, exotic beaches, as well as the rich cultural heritage of this island, serve as Natalia's inexhaustible source of inspiration. Her works are not merely artistic expressions but lasting testimonies to the beauty and inspiration that faithfully preserve and convey the essence of her homeland. Through almost abstract depictions of the landscapes of Vis, the artist masterfully conveys the essence and soul of this magical place, allowing viewers to feel its energy and beauty.

The exhibition features large-scale paintings from her latest series, which thematically focuses on beaches and seascapes. Her paintings are windows into a world where nature reigns, and human presence is merely a faint reflection of the vast beauty and power of the surroundings. In crafting her compositions, she combines abstract forms with figurative elements, where the motifs of people and bathers emerge within layers of abstraction. In this series, she employs an intense color palette, dominated by shades of blue and green, accented with red, orange, purple, or yellow tones. Each painting exudes authenticity, with every brushstroke and layer of paint bringing to life memories of swimming in hidden coves, the sound of waves breaking on the shore, and the scent of salt and Mediterranean herbs in the air. The mystical beauty of the island, through the eyes and hands of the artist, becomes accessible to all. Gazing at her paintings not only pleases our senses but also nourishes the soul, offering moments of inner peace and harmony.

In her creative process, the artist employs various painting methods, from mixed media techniques using oil on canvas and acrylic paints, to experimenting with different emulsions, thinners, acids, and oils. She also frequently applies the dripping technique, where paint is spontaneously poured or splattered onto the canvas, creating dynamic and unpredictable shapes. The canvases are then exposed to natural elements like rain and water, allowing them to further shape the final expression of her art. This interaction with natural elements not only results in a rich and vibrant visual experience but also symbolically connects the art with natural cycles, allowing nature to become a co-creator of her work. The outcome of this process is a rich, layered, and unusual organic application of color on the canvases. "The colors, or rather the layers of color, appear as if they have organically grown from the canvas, resembling algae and lichens found in nature..." the artist stated. By combining technique, spontaneous interaction with natural elements, and the emotional power of her motifs, the artist creates works that speak a universal language of natural beauty and artistic expression.

Her work is more than just a depiction of landscapes; it is a deeply considered exploration of the relationship between the artist, nature, and the viewer. The

exhibited paintings remind us of the simplicity and magnificence of the nature that surrounds us, inviting us to connect with it, to feel it, experience it, embrace it, and preserve it for future generations.

The sculptures by Italian sculptor **Daniele Fortuna** on display are part of his latest series, which, like all his previous works, focuses on the human figure interpreted in the spirit of ancient tradition, but through the lens of contemporary sculptural morphology. Through his work, Fortuna aims to popularize figures from classical mythology, which he admired since childhood. Each sculpture is composed of numerous hand-cut wooden pieces that, like a puzzle, come together to form a whole and are painted in vibrant acrylic colors. A sculpture is only complete when each piece, carefully and meticulously crafted, is placed in its designated spot.

Fortuna successfully blends pop art with classical forms, creating a unique bridge between the past and present. From sculptures with classical motifs like Venus and Zeus to those with pop motifs such as Batman and Mickey Mouse, Fortuna's most well-known series include "Colormination", "Heads Will Roll", and "Thology". His stunning sculptures change expression from every angle, providing both visual and spiritual delight.

The artist himself has said that he reached a point in his life when he felt the need to share his inner world with people who would understand it. In fact, art is his medium of communication through which he seeks to connect and emotionally communicate with others.



Natalia Borčić Peuc, *Host*, ulje i akril na platnu, oil and acrylic on canvas, 120x160cm, 2024.



Natalia Borčić Peuc, *Milna s kupačim kostimom*, ulje i akril na platnu, oil and acrylic on canvas, 130x130 cm, 2024.



Daniele Fortuna, *Neptune*, wood and acrylic, 40x30x30cm, 2024.



Daniele Fortuna, *Venus Milo*, wood and acrylic, 45x30x18 cm, 2024.

Natalia Borčić Peuc rođena je na otoku Visu 1989. godine. Diplomirala je na Akademiji likovnih umjetnosti u klasi prof. Matka Vekića u Zagrebu 2013. godine. Članica je HDLU-a i HZSU-a. Kreatorica je nagrade za 14. festival radiodrame Grand prix Marulić. Bavi se i ilustracijom te je ilustrirala mnogobrojne legende i priče otoka Visa. Izlagala je na mnogobrojnim samostalnim i skupnim izložbama u zemlji i inozemstvu te je sudjelovala na više umjetničkih rezidencija. Na 7. Bijenalu slikarstva dobila je nagradu „Mlada umjetnica 7. bijenala slikarstva“ i nagradu „Kontrapunkt nagrada Vladimir Dodig Trokut, Iva Vraneković - umjetnici umjetniku“. Njezine slike krasi zidove kolekcionara i ljubitelja umjetnosti diljem svijeta, potvrđujući njezin izuzetan talent i univerzalnu privlačnost njezina stvaralaštva, koja prelazi granice Hrvatske. Natalia živi i radi na relaciji Zagreb – Vis.

Natalia Borčić Peuc was born on the island of Vis in 1989. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in the class of Prof. Matko Vekic in Zagreb in 2013. She is a member of the Croatian Association of Artists (HDLU) and the Croatian Freelance Artists Association (HZSU). She is the author of the award for the 14th International Festival Prix Marulic. She is also an illustrator and has produced drawings for numerous legends and stories of the island of Vis. She exhibited at numerous solo and group exhibitions in Croatia and abroad, as well as participated in several art colonies. At the 7th Biennial of Painting, she received the "Young Artist of the 7th Biennial of Painting" award and the "Kontrapunkt award Vladimir Dodig Trokut, Iva Vranekovic - artists to an artist". Her paintings adorn the walls of collectors and art lovers around the world, confirming her exceptional talent and the universal appeal of her work, which transcends the borders of Croatia. Natalia lives and works in both Zagreb and Vis.

Daniele Fortuna rođen je 1981. godine u Milanu. Nakon stečene diplome na Europskom fakultetu za dizajn i modu u Milanu, Fortuna se seli u Irsku gdje nastavlja studij umjetnosti. Po završetku studija vraća se u Italiju gdje u svom ateljeu u Piacenzi s puno osjećaja, strpljenja i ljubavi izrađuje skulpture kojima razotkriva svoje najintimnije osjećaje i preokupacije. Njegove skulpture dio su prestižnih kolekcija širom svijeta. Djela mu redovito krasi izložbene prostore u velikim metropolama i renomiranim galerijama, a njegova umjetnost privlači globalnu pažnju i kritičare. Jedinostveni stil i vizija osigurali su mu mjesto među najznačajnijim suvremenim umjetnicima.

Daniele Fortuna was born in 1981 in Milan. After earning his degree from the European Institute of Design and Fashion in Milan, Fortuna moved to Ireland to further his art studies. Upon completing his studies, he returned to Italy, where, with great sensitivity, patience, and love, he creates sculptures in his studio in Piacenza, revealing his most intimate feelings and preoccupations. His sculptures are part of prestigious collections worldwide. His works regularly grace exhibition spaces in major metropolises and renowned galleries, and his art attracts global attention and critics. His unique style and vision have secured him a place among the most significant contemporary artists.



Natalia Borčić Peuc, *Srebrna s ležaljkom*, 140x180 cm, ulje i akril na platnu, oil and acrylic on canvas, 2024.



Daniele Fortuna, *Dancing Fauno Colormination*, wood and acrylic, 42x14x23 cm, 2023.



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