



Heike Schmid / Artist & Teacher

Heike Schmid grew up in West Berlin where she was surrounded by the Berlin wall and often felt trapped and limited. The need for space and expansion was persistent. This feeling was compounded by her environment of subsidized housing projects that felt neither inviting nor safe. Perhaps it was there that she began to develop a vivid imagination and created an interior world that she could resort to. Or was it simply her nature?

She “escaped” to museums and art classes where her imagination had a more legitimate place. She began training in Berlin and came to the United States by way of a fellowship from the German Government. She lives in Oakland, CA and teaches 2-D art at Folsom Lake College, CA.

Quoting from her artist statement:

“In my work I attempt to transcend the physical realities of painting and to set up relationships that invite the viewer to embark upon a visual journey and enter a world that will touch, elevate, and inform the spirit.

Figurative imagery that appears and disappears in and out of the field as well as repetitions of forms and of strong diagonal forces serve as a leitmotif so as to heighten the experience and to draw the viewer into a world in which s/he is free to continuously discover, dream, and experience.

I perceive my work as timeless. It is characterized by themes that remain unchanged in the history of wo/man/kind, and it addresses the infinite discourse of love, illness, death, tolerance, dignity, and the building of bridges in order to transcend isolation. It often takes on a dream-like quality as it emanates from the subconscious.

I alternately perceive human nature as humorous, fascinating, challenging, and mysterious; a mystery full of beauty, contradictions, opposites, and complements. I want to encourage the viewer to experience this mystery with curiosity and reverence.”

Heike Schmid

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