MY HEROINE AND HER MATE

December 29, 2014 - Arts Bk.

Years before Peres Projects presented us with her Apropos line, gritty sheets and the form of lovers’ ghosts, even before Maria Abravanel, whipped with joy in questioning the modern notion of decorum, there was Dorothy Iannone - the woman and the artist. Born in Boston in 1930, this pioneer of feminist art embarked on a daring journey across the world, fueled by art, love and desire. Today, Dorothy Iannone is widely recognized for the work she did during the 1970s, when she dedicated an entire artistic saga to Dieter Roth, a Swiss artist she fell deeply in love with, but her roots go deeper than that era.

Dorothy Iannone’s art, although mostly made of stylized figuration, stems from Abstract Expressionism, and her early abstractions are what the upcoming show at Peres Projects will display. Exhibition announced under the title My Heroine and Her Mate will showcase a selection of early abstract works by Iannone, shown together for the first time since 1980 in West Berlin.

Painting and Iannone

Discovering art and painting as the only path through which she can uncover and show the truth about herself and the world, Dorothy Iannone immersed into a long-lasting process of playing and expressing ideas she saw crucial, such as love, ecstasy and the matters of the carnal. Without diminishing them to physical only, the artist correlated these natural states of human body and spirit to mystical and religious ideas found in various belief systems, from ancient Greek Philadelphia, to Indian religions. She did from the initial abstractions to a universal depiction of a female – male relationship, in which the woman has a more important role.

Before the Goddess

Anticipating her famous heroine, the mighty woman, goddess and whore, Dorothy Iannone created a series of abstractions in the early 60s, while still living in the USA. In these vibrant canvases, the artist began her exploration of chromatic structures, while signaling the provocative necessities that will come in the next decade. Intensur, evocative and strong will were obvious in the artist’s expression. From the very beginning, only to be developed further in her elaborations of femininity, sexuality, freedom, mysticism and eros. Ambiguous forms and segments of these early works anticipate the style of figuration Iannone will later arrive to, as well as her recognizable drawing style, much inspired by ancient figurative representations and trees found on vases, for example.

Dorothy Iannone – Let Me Squeeze Your Fat Cunt – 1971

Dorothy Iannone – Love to Beat You – 1971

Abstractions Hint Erotica

Even though later drawings and books Dorothy Iannone produced show much pondering and planning, the early work uncover spontaneously that never really left. In the abstractions, it was demonstrated in the pictorial, written later in the conceptually. In the narrative and in the emotional context of the piece. Allowing herself to enter the ultimately free creative act, this intriguing artist went all the way, living and breathing her art, documenting experiences and creating one of the important avenues of openly female expression of the 60th and 70th centuries.

"My Heroine and Her Mate" will open at Peres Projects in Berlin, the current hometown of Dorothy Iannone, on January 17, 2015, and it will remain on view through February 28, 2015, showing how her famous heroine came to be, supported by her ever-more alive mate on her journey to ecstasy.

Dorothy Iannone – Your Name is Love, Father, God – 1971

Dorothy Iannone – Hello and Goodbye to Copenhagen – 1982

Feature artists are still less present on the scene, although their expression is more important than ever. Follow female artists of the contemporary art by signing up for My WideWalls and help establish gender equality in the art world.

Dorothy Iannone – Secret Blossom, early 60s

Dorothy Iannone – Oh, Waat!! Just Yesterday – 1960

Dorothy Iannone – Luscious – 1961

Dorothy Iannone – Emerging – 1961