AN ARTIST EMERGES IN THE BOHEMIAN CONTINUUM

by Stephen DiLauro

With her recent series of paintings, **Catalina "Cat" Nuñez** is making art rooted in the ages. At first blush, the work might seem minimalist; and the artist acknoweldges this impulse as a core element in the creation of these pieces. However, this observer sensed a definite familiarity arising upon seeing the work.

Nuñez's process includes a starting point that speaks to that familiarity and serves as a jumping off point for the intellectual basis for these compositions. She says that she hoped to use these efforts to explore Carl Jung's theories of archetype & the collective unconscious.

The repeated shapes are reminiscent of menhirs or dolmen and when this topic is broached in conversation, Nuñez confirms the origin of the shapes. The 32-year-old artist began by drawing standing stones in Columcille, a sprawling 20-acre contemporary megalithic park outside Bangor, Pennsylvania, near where the artist grew up. Upon hearing this, everything else about her art falls into place.

Nuñez only employs variations on green in this series. That fact recalled Robert Frost's short poem *Nothing Gold Can Stay:*

> Nature's first green is gold,
> Her hardest hue to hold.
> Her early leaf's a flower;
> But only so an hour.
> Then leaf subsides to leaf.
> So Eden sank to grief.
> So dawn goes down to day.
> Nothing gold can stay.

The artist's process of layering one green over another layer of green, then burnishing (or soft scumbling), and repeating again and again until black is achieved, mimics Nature's process of reaching black through decay (but without the loss that is inherent in the organic transformation). In the forest, layer upon layer of leaf matter settles upon itself season after season until the layers compost. It is an eternal process born in times too ancient to recall but too present to deny.

Nuñez also employs text in block capital letters, sparingly, to bring to the fore the universality of emotion that has evolved from humanity's irrepressible desire to engage with love as both a contact sport and as an effervescence of the spirit:

TOUCH ME

HOLD ME OR HAUNT ME

I LOOK FOR YOU IN EVERYONE

On another, larger canvas in the series, the use of text as an observation encouraging the viewer to both biological and political awareness:

I REMEMBER CLEAN AIR

Nuñez realizes her initial goal – revealing through painting the verity of archetypes in the collective unconscious – and in doing so, she evinces an energy that harks back to cave painters of millennia past. Her works' timeless evocations demonstrate that some art speaks to people at the DNA level and reinforces the idea that art is an essential nutrient for human evolution.

Cat Nuñez explores her themes with an intensity that is subtle yet undeniable, and so she finds her way into the souls of those who experience these paintings. An artist to watch, indeed. @_catnunez on Instagram.



Cat Nunez I Look for You in Everyone

Straight Outta Bohemia

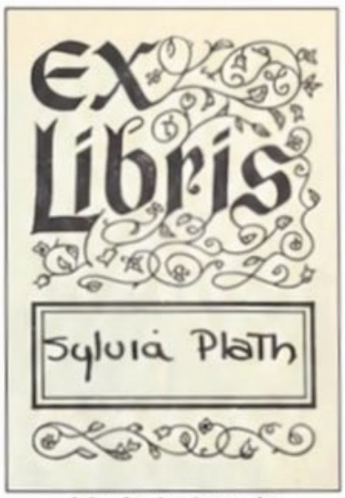
Bohemians from across Europe and North America, along with museum curators and art collectors, are descending upon West Broadway in SoHo this month to celebrate the first comprehensive consideration of the maestro of Fusionismo, **Shalom Neuman**, at **Georges Berges** Gallery. The exhhiit, a 50-year retrespective on view from September 10 – October 3, is a must-see. Please check out our curated coverage elsewhere in this issue.

Rare Literary Delights

The next edition of the Empire State Book Fair will take place September 17 – 19 at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, at 7 West 55h Street. Among the many purveyors of literary treasures will be **Peter Harrington** Rare Books of Manhattan and London, offering outstanding portals into the literary and artistic past.

Peter Harrington's offerings include #53 of a signed set of Gustav Klimt's prints from the only edition created in the artist's lifetime. Sylvia Plath's personal copy of *Great Modern Short Stories*, with the poet's personal book plate and some interesting Plath family history, is also among the many possible acquisitions.

I'm interested in seeing Dwight D. Eisenhower's *Report from the Supreme Commander* inscribed to General Leonard Gerow, one of the main commanders at Omaha Beach on D Day. God Bless our warriors and may they



An item for sale at the upcoming Empire State Book Fair.

prevail swiftly wherever they engage.

Empire State Rare Book Fair website finefairs.com

Elena Seroff: Singapore and More

The U.S. State Department has announced that the work of NYC artist **Elena Seroff** will be on display in the United States Ambassador's residence in Singapore. The work was lent by **Avery Galleries** of Manhattan and Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Brava to Elena Seroff, who is always a Bohemian Continuum favorite.

New Yorkers can see Seroff's work at the Affordable Art Fair from September 16 – 20 in the **Artios Gallery Booth** A22 in the Lehigh-Starett Building, 601 West 26th Street, in Chelsea. **Debbie Dickinson** will be showing Seroff's paintings at Zadeh Fine Jewelry, 1244 Madison Avenue, September 11th – 27th as part of Fashion Week. @elenaseroff on Instagram.



Elena Seroff_The Place I Live In #2, oil on canvas, 30 x 24 in, 2024. Art in Embassies

Swing Dancing in the East Village

John Bianchi and his **Buck and a Quarter Quartet** will be bringing swing dancing to an East Village venue once again. Francis Kite Club, where NYC's preeminent skiffle band last served up music for swing dancers in July, lost their lease. **The Smirnoff Twins, Natasha** and **Oksana**, who oversaw the much-lamented Anyway Cafe, which also lost its lease, are running the bar now at Pangea, across Second Avenue from St. Mark's Church.

The second Tuesday of every month, doors will open at 7 pm with a swing dance lesson at 7:30, followed by two hours of music and cavorting. $10 cash or Venmo at the door. @buckandaquarterquartet

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The Society of Classical Poets, of which I am a member in good standing, is offering a $200 cash prize for the best English-language haiku that follows the traditional Japanese rules for haiku, which can be found along with the contest, by visiting classicalpoets.org. The deadline is 6 pm on September 25. Kouna o! (Good luck in Japanese.)

Seasonal Bliss

Autumn is upon us. Somewhere apple cider is fermenting in oak barrels. Pumpkins are ripening for slaughter, and bohemians will break out the turtlenecks soon.

I leave you with a haiku for the season:

> ***Yellow leaves, red leaves***
> ***Brown leaves, fallen leaves, dead leaves***
> ***Leaves for Florida***

My Old East Village Home

by George Fiala

