

# ULLA WOBST

## Fascination : Mystery

Two passions – that for art and that for literature - have accompanied her from the very beginning. Already as a little girl she has become enthusiastic about colours and has been inspired to paint and to draw by listening to fairy tales and by reading stories.

After having finished her studies of philology , German and English literature and language, her first main profession leads her to literature , analytically and creatively. She i.e. puts on stage numerous theatre plays and writes lyrical texts , some of which were published.

Parallely – in form of autodidactic studies – she gets herself informed about the history of art and different techniques of art and continues developing her abilities as a painter finding her own style .

She mainly employs acrylic , pastel and gouache paints (sometimes as a mixed technique ) on canvas or paper.

Since 2001 Ulla Wobst has worked – as her second profession – in her atelier with exhibition rooms in Dortmund. Considering her complete work up to now and searching for stylistic classification such categories as “Pittura metafisica” , Surrealism” and “ Phantastic realism” come to mind spontaneously.

The inspiration for the artist’s paintings arrive from reflection (that is from the “ inner world “ ) and observation of the world outside.

Dreams , fairy tales and myths belong i.e. to the first group , to the second one the things and persons that really exist. In both these worlds it is mystery that urges her to creation and fascinates the viewer looking at her pictures. Together with him she wants to ask for the mysteries of the world and try ‘ to look behind the curtain’. The answer must be given individually. The viewer “ enters a painting ” and invents a story of his own.

The portrait “ Kate” (example for “ the world outside “) – the face of model Kate Moss has inspired Ulla Wobst to interpretation - shows the enigmatic physiognomy of a female face – mysterious by her seeming glance at a person opposite – yet in reality absorbed in her own inner world.

The again and again thinly applied layers of gouache and acrylic paints of the more or less monochrome painting give a certain transparency to the face. Shadows are sharply contrasted with light parts thus forming clear, almost geometrical contours of nose, mouth, chin and the regions of the eyes.

“ Visit to Undine “ depicts the artist’s preference for fabulous themes ( here based on De la Motte Fouqué, “ Undine “ and Ingeborg Bachmann , “ Undine geht “. It serves as an example for Wobst’s interest in literature and her fascination by inner worlds. In this painting colourful paints stand in a magical contrast with the sad facial expression of Undine, the mermaid, that neither belongs to the world of water nor to that of man.

The picture “ Flatterhaft” - the English title “ Inconstant” is not as pictorial as the German one – is based on a poem by I. Bachmann ( “ Nebelland “ ). Here the theme of infidelity is interpreted by the diabolic colour contrast black-red reflecting the aspect of enigma. Besides, as in many other paintings by Ulla Wobst , the presentation of the theme is connected with her own private metaphors.

The artist has had numerous single – and group exhibitions in international galleries and at international art fairs...

**Maria Gabriele Rathje**

Translation by Ulla Wobst