

OPENING

September 28th, 2023 6 PM - 9 PM

ERA GALLERY

Via Palermo n. 1-5, Milan, Italy

Opening hours:

Tue - Fri: 10.30 AM- 7 PM

Sat: 2PM - 7pm

Tel. +39 02336522686

Email: info@eragallery.it

www.eragallery.it

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GAMMANZI

JOURNEYS OF THE HEART

“화가로서 낯선 세상에 서야하는 젊은이의 감성은 불안과 초조가 절반이다. 누구나 그러하듯 그들에게 세상은 낯설고 어색하기 그지없다. 점차 나이를 먹어감에 따라 낯섬이 습관이 될 때 즈음 어른이 되고 기성세대가 된다. 젊은 화가 감만지의 세상은 자신의 가족을 타인으로 보면서부터 출발한다. 가족을 외면하는 것이 아니라 가족을 가족으로서 바로보지만 그 또한 세상의 일부로 인정하는 예술가적 기질에서의 시작점이다.”

- Courtesy of Park Jeongsu, (Director of Jeongsu art center/Art critic)

SOME WORDS FROM GAMMANZI

“As the soft afternoon breeze ushers in a sense of calm, it beckons the time to bring the outdoor potted plants into my studio, a sanctuary of creativity. Within these walls, a daily source of joy awaits – a particular potted plant that never fails to bring a smile to my face. I often find myself lost in thought, imagining the conversations exchanged with the sunlight as new leaves gently unfurl and greet me, a beautiful dance of nature and memory. The presence of vibrant blooms adorning various pots and vases in my studio never fails to awaken my senses, grounding me in the artistic process.

Amidst the studio’s creative ambiance, my gaze often lingers on the portrait of my grandfather adorning the wall. In those quiet moments of reflection, a wave of nostalgia and longing gently pushes the boundaries of my emotions, urging me to paint my sentiments onto the canvas. Each stroke of the brush is a fusion of the lingering hues of dried paint and the fresh intensity of new strokes, an allegory for the ever-renewing cycle of memories and emotions. The strokes, both rugged and delicately diffused, come together to express the world as I perceive it – a symphony of shapes and emotions intertwined.

Longing, a pervasive emotion, finds a profound space in my life, a sentiment born from the cherished memories of my childhood spent with my grandfather. This affection for the elderly has become a recurring theme in my work, capturing their gestures and interactions, especially within loving couples, as the epitome of profound love. Through my recent works, which delve into reflective artistry, I strive to encapsulate and contemplate the essence of longing. Today, as I forge new connections and engage in life’s voyage through conversations with diverse individuals, a myriad of emotions unfolds before me. These fresh relationships, though seemingly light at first,

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pave the way for profound dialogues, exposing me to a tapestry of novel emotions and perspectives. Each painting thus embodies a unique facet of this human experience.

In this exhibition, titled “**Journeys of the Heart,**” my aspiration is to portray fleeting sentiments, the raw and authentic emotions that form the very fabric of our lives. I employ the fortuitous effects of brushstrokes, where chance and intention converge, to capture these transient moments. More than an artist’s role, I wish to contemplate the responsibilities bestowed upon me by life itself. This introspective stance allows me to create not just as an artist but as an individual perceiving and responding to the world. It is a journey of understanding, a realization that true happiness multiplies when shared and experienced collectively. With each stroke of the brush, I endeavor to create art that resonates, art that is infused with love.

Through this exhibition, my hope is to revisit a spectrum of emotions, portraying them authentically and sharing them with an open heart. Welcome to a glimpse of my world, where memories and emotions converge on the canvas, waiting to be explored and felt.”

SEÁN CERONI, CURATOR

Gammanzi doesn’t make any claim to represent the world as it is, but rather as it was. Not the world in the past per se but how it once lived in our own minds, when we still saw the world with the curious wisdom of childhood. Maybe Aristotle was wrong in seeing children as incomplete when they come into this world and maybe it is seeing our lives through our childhood eyes again that we can complete our adult selves.

Gammanzi’s art is at once young and old. Her hand is innocent; in so far as her figures are friendly and cartoonish they seem to express the purity of a child’s soul too young to have been yet jaded by this earth. However their stories and lives are decidedly uncontemporary, they court and walk leisurely through arcadian landscapes like the protagonists of 19th century novels, leisurely taking their tender **journeys of the heart**. They are a far cry from the western imagination’s vision of an ultra technological contemporary Korea.

Korea instead emerges softly but insistently in her technique. It springs forth from ink blotted backgrounds of quiet rhythms, pictorial fields which recall the gentle abstraction of the *Dansaekhwa* movement. Against these smudged skies grow tall trees,

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now more like *Joseon* dynasty landscapes, willowy leaves swaying in placid breezes. It is then that the mildness of the scene comes interrupted by the joyful song of her boisterous little figures. Young lovers and dancers, little gardeners seeing to their flowers, fairies that fly as merrily as bumblebees. Button noses and mickey mouse smiles, where does Gammanzi find these figures? In memories both real and invented, the products of an unrepressed inner child which dares to imagine humanity full of love and humour, and in sharing her vision with us asks us to try and do the same.



GAMMANZI, 다함께 춤을춰 (Sunset Glow), 2022.