

Houston Artist, Orna Feinstein, First Ever Art Exhibitions on Snow Hill Island, Antarctica and the Arctic Circle

Orna Feinstein's "The Presence of Absence" conceived only 2 days prior her expedition to Antarctica.

HOUSTON, July 29, 2023 – Orna Feinstein, a mixed media artist specializing in printmaking and sculpture, has shown her art on Snow Hill Island, Antarctica on January 2023, and at the Arctic circle on July 2023. Her exhibition titled The Presence of Absence included 10 collages of monoprints that were created on board the ship on the way to the Antarctic peninsula. This record makes Feinstein the only artist to show artworks on both poles within 6 months.

The exhibition on Snow Hill Island, Antarctica was held on Friday, January 13th, 2023, and was the first ever solo exhibition on this island.

What came as a last minute idea, just 2 days prior to her expedition to Antarctica, turned into a project that included the creation of the collages of monoprints, and exhibiting them on one of the islands on the peninsula. Not knowing how the weather will hold, and how ferocious the winds will become, the artist chose to work on a small scale, to accommodate the changing conditions.

For 25 years, the artist made art focusing on the subject of nature, and especially trees. "I felt that the thing I will miss the most on this trip is trees", said Feinstein. In order to fill the absence, she took some art supply with her, with a plan to create more works, with the same nature, tree theme. With the small amount of free time that she had, she created 10 collages of monoprints. "I felt that I am bringing something that doesn't exist in that area, hence the title The Presence of Absence" said the artist.

Showing the works of art was a challenge in itself. As no structures are available for any purpose on the island. EPA regulations prohibit laying anything on the ground, so the artist opted for another last minute option. Five volunteers held the art in their hands, and the artist held the title of the exhibition.

In a place where weather conditions are extreme, and changing rapidly, it was a great relief for the artist when the weather cooperated with her. The conditions were great at that specific time, sunshine and a mild wind.

On July 2023, Feinstein went on another expedition, this time to the Arctic Circle. She created 12 collages of monoprints on board that ship. On July 11, 2023 these artworks were shown on board the ship on Deck 8, surrounded by Sea Ice in the Arctic Circle, north of Svalbard island, Norway. The next morning, in front of Monacobreen glacier, she created a performance with 4 of her monoprints.

In addition to these 2 exhibitions, on July 12, 2023, Feinstein mounted another exhibition on Woodfjorden, Svalbard. Ten artworks that were created and shown in Antarctica, were shown again in an exhibit titled the Presence of Absence, and was viewed by many hikers in that area. This fact makes these ten artworks truly Bi-Polar, as they were shown on both poles within 6 months. In Total Feinstein mounted one exhibition in Antarctica, and 3 in the Arctic Circle during this time

About the Artist:

Feinstein is a mixed media, Houston based artist known for pushing the boundaries of the media. Her 2D and 3D prints, sculptures, and installations are both unique and experimental. She shows extensively in solo and group exhibitions. Her work is widely collected privately, and publicly. In 2021, seventeen of her artworks were acquired by Museums, seven of them by The Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

Samples of Feinstein's work are available on her website www.ornafeinstein.com. For more information please e-mail orna@ornafeinstein.com

SOURCE: Orna Feinstein

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