



A world of happiness

By Qi Xijia Source:Global Times Published: 2015-10-21 17:38:01

Artist captures joyful moments through simple, moving paintings

Eva Armisén is a Spanish painter, illustrator and defender of joy. She believes that a day without joy is a day lost. She values honesty, truth and simplicity, and strives to seek out beautiful things and be around them. With her painting, she tries to put a magnifying glass on such moments and celebrate them.

"I try to be positive and enjoy life. I love my work and feel happy to make a living from what I like to do. I am aware of my luck," Armisén told the Global Times.

In her recent exhibition at ArtN Space Shanghai, she has created many joyful images derived from small everyday scenes.

Moving images

The pieces revolve around a smiling female figure who appears in different scenes with her family members.

Armisén gives her character different identities. She is a sweet girl who plays with her toys at bedtime, a young woman seeking love on a date, and a loving mother sewing for her kids.

"It is a kind of self-portrait to explain what I feel. It came out in a natural way and became the storyteller," said Armisén.

The artist displays her skill in transforming these daily scenes into unique, fairy-like occasions.

She finds inspiration in everything that moves her, lacing the resulting works with humor, charm and tenderness.

The women in her painting wear billowing dresses, and their large faces occupy much of the canvas. Their bucket-like bodies are covered with floral or moon-print dress.

They wear flowers in their hair and seem to be possessed by joy in whatever context Armisén places them, be it in the bedroom, the kitchen, the living room, or the fresh air. They appear to live in a world that only exists in childhood imagination.



In her recent exhibition in Shanghai, Spanish artist Eva Armisén has created many joyful images derived from small everyday scenes. Photos: Qi Xijia/GT

Childhood romance

Armisen tries to revive the primitive strength of childhood. She once admitted she started painting because she was shy as a girl and drawing and painting was her favorite way of communicating.

"I discovered that I could change things just by drawing them different. There is a power impossible to abandon. I really think that art can move emotions, and when you are moved you can change things, and that is an endless power."

With that belief in mind, she worked using a style that is reminiscent of childhood sketches. There is not much detail in her painting.

The faces are largely bare expanses, although still full of life and expressiveness. The bodies are rendered in brief, misshapen outlines.

"I try to avoid everything that is not relevant. Every time I try harder to stay simple. If I paint a hand, I want to feel how it touches me. If I paint a jersey, I want to feel every stitch as if I were knitting it. I want to look for the truth of the things and the feelings."

Optimistic outlook

Each aspect of her paintings is aimed at transmitting her love and optimistic moments. They are bright without being garish, carrying a lightness that lacks a single trace of the pain and shrillness of the adult world.

For Armisen, arousing an emotional response is one of the most important things for her work.

"When I feel that someone gets moved by one of my works, it is like the circle closes. If there is nobody on the other side, the sense gets lost. When I feel the emotion in someone else, that painting is not mine anymore, it has a new life. That is a kind of miracle," said Armisen.

She added that her favorite work in this exhibition is the etching *Frágil*, which features a young woman balancing a red heart on a string. The simple image can easily strike a chord with viewers.

"It talks about how careful we have to be with the ones we love and how much we have to care," said Armisen.

Shanghai debut

This is the first show that Armisen has had on the Chinese mainland. She spent two weeks working in Shanghai before the opening of the exhibition.

For her Shanghai debut she created a painting that features the Bund as a backdrop.

"I am very excited about my first show on the Chinese mainland. Shanghai is an energetic city to me. I love the feeling I get when I am here, it is a special combination of tradition and modernity, of speed and calm," said Armisen.

"I wanted Shanghai to be present in my exhibition and I painted a portrait set on the Bund, just like thousands of families that capture that moment there together."

Date: Until November 6, 10 am to 7 pm (closed Mondays)

Venue: ArtN Space

Address: 87 Moganshan Road 莫干山路87号

Admission: Free

Call 5291-9959 for details

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