**"Today there is a cybernetics culture "**

**It is the great emotions that trigger the best moments of creativity for this cosmopolitan Chilean artist, who is exhibiting her  "Juxtaposition" in the gallery Artespacio. "Changes  produce extreme emotions and prevent you from becoming comfortably numb," she says.**

By: Oscar Sepulveda / Photo: Matias Bonizzoni

"For me, art is everything: it is my blood flowing through my veins and the air that fills my lungs, it is what makes me feel alive", explains Michele Krauss visual artist, whose series "Juxtapositions" just opened at the Gallery Artespacio, Alonso de Cordova, where it will remain open until September 11th.

**- Why you titled like that your exhibit ? -**

Because, she explained, "juxtaposing, the term, refers to 'put something together with something else or in its proximity ." In English this also means to produce a contrasting effect. In my work, that translates the idea of overlapping or contrasting elements of abstract landscapes, imaginary, natural, with man-made elements with simple linear representations, while overlapping feelings, perceptions, emotions, what is changing and what remains static at first sight. "

Michele Krauss is a cosmopolitan woman. In addition to Chile, she has lived in many different places-London, Milan, Madrid, New York, Connecticut, Boston, Miami, San Francisco, among others, and without doubt each has left a mark: "Every country, every small or large city I had lived in," she says, "have all left a mark on me. Its streets, its people, its culture ... But if it comes to choosing one in particular, I would say that having lived in Italy has marked me deeply. It is a country that breathes art everywhere and in all its forms. The Italian is exposed and appreciate art. It's in their veins ... ".

She recalls her studies in interior architecture while she was living in Milan. "My teachers made me appreciate every corner where I was during my stay in Italy. You are impregnated with history and make you appreciate its architecture to the extent of embracing walls to feel them, to measure them and then make floor plans. It makes me laugh to remember those scenes ... "she says.

Of all the places she knows, Michele feels that USA  has become part of herself. "It is the country where I have lived the longer, although in different cities. San Francisco is one of my favorite places. The people are very cosmopolitan and open minded. I love the pace, more relaxed and that "european flair." Its climate and vegetation remind me of Chile. Where I lived there were eucalyptus, a scent that brings back memories of  my childhood.

However I have met so many people who I appreciate so much, in other cities, that I feel  almost embarrassed to say I prefer a place more than another ... "she says.

**And as an artist, how have all these continuous changes of environments and scenarios influenced you?**

-As an artist, everything influences you. Consciously or subconsciously. Culturally I have gained so much. I was able to visit museums, exhibitions, concerts, meet different people, see different landscapes, different visions, cultures, ideas. I have also been affected emotionally. Some changes are easy while others prove to be difficult. Especially the last one (from Connecticut to Boston), which affected me in a particular way and made me fall into an existential crisis ... though I am an existentialist by nature.

"Sometimes the torment forces you to be creative," she explains, "somehow it makes you concentrate. I used this crisis, or perhaps I should say the opposite, this crisis used me- to have a very good and creative period that at the same time is what made me get out of it. However, periods of great happiness and fulfillment have produced the same effect. Which leads me to conclude that  it is the   extreme emotions that trigger the best moments of creativity. These changes occur under extreme emotions and prevent you from becoming comfortably numb."

And Michele tells us that to - "not lose the habit" - while out in Chile, she is preparing a new move ... "This time in Manhattan, to the city. She had previously lived in New York, but in the quiet suburbs. Now, it will be in SoHo, with its chaos and vibrancy, next to Chelsea, where the art galleries are concentrated . "I'm very excited," says, "and as soon as I install myself in a new  studio, I'll start a whole new stage in life and a new series of work. I hope this becomes one of those favorite places and definite one,  maybe. "

What Michele Krauss seeks to express through  painting are feelings, sensations, emotions, ideas, perceptions, experiences ... "I begin with an idea and as I'm making progress, it changes, transforms  and eventually it becomes" she says.

**- What does art mean for you ?**

'It is what allows me to express myself. Not only in paintings or producing them myself. Music, literature, dance, photography, sculpture, cinema and many other disciplines, all of which affect me as a person and therefore in my work. Art is everywhere, you just have to know how to see it. there are people who are better than others at seeing it , but the wonderful thing about art, it is that  it's for everyone, it  can be understood and appreciated by anyone. Then,  it is also, a form of communication.

**- How would you define the moment we live in today's art world?**

-Art has gone global and that means it has been democratized. The world learns and relates in a new way. It's like a time of "Renaissance." Being able to offer a virtual museum to the citizens of the world's remotest ends, people who would never have access to such cultural display, It's a wonder. Access to virtual libraries and even to check their manuscripts from the comfort of your home is a fantastic opportunity for globalizing knowledge and to bring art to everyone. New media like the Internet allow artistic production cross borders, thus a large geographical spread and be an extremely valuable cultural tool. There is a feedback and there are new capitals of art, besides the well-known Paris, New York and London. We are  seeing  how Asia and South America  are integrating ...

**-New technologies are transforming communication. How it touches you as an artist?**

'I think it is fantastic the way that new technologies are transforming communication. To see the power it's giving us to disseminate information, education and cultural exchange is exciting and motivating. The influence that we can achieve politically  and at a social level through the Internet and social networks it's a power  we haven't enjoyed before, and  it is now at hand for much of the world's population. Now it's hard to silence people and we can find out events in different geographic locations, which was previously unthinkable. I think  well used, it is a weapon that can be used to control and force leaders and politicians do their job well. Many of us want real change towards a better world, and new technologies are a valuable weapon to produce it.

"Now there is a 'cyber culture'.  Art does not isolated  itself from the social and cultural context. Participates, it is part of it and transforms it. New movements and access to new technologies have created new art forms, such as digital art. This cyber culture goes hand in hand with globalization. These new art forms are interactive. Images and sounds are no longer static and are now easily handled and processed. This has enabled a larger group of people to participate in this artistic and cultural movement  and the spread of it to be accessible to many more, both broadcasters and receivers.

I, myself have experimented a bit with digital photography, video and  micro-scale journalism, reporting in social networks. That's a big advantage and a tool of expression available to everyone. "