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SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S PROVEN SOURCE OF ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Internationally Acclaimed Artist Helene Steene Comes to Roanoke

Internationally acclaimed artist, Helene Steene, was the first artist to exhibit at the opening of GalerieFrancois on "Gallery Row" in the Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C., twenty-three years ago. Helene Steene and Francois Claytor through their association and endearing friendship had a deep and profound impact of the Washington, D.C. "art scene".

Even though Ms. Steene has had over 200 exhibits throughout the United States and abroad, a nexus was once again created when GalerieFrancois II played an integral role in bringing her to the City of Roanoke in exhibition. And as if it's a *deja vu*, or serendipity, as GalerieFrancois II emerges on the "art scene" in the "star city of the south", once again it will be honored to have a repeat performance as Ms. Steene, will once again provide the opening exhibit for the gallery with her works entitled "My Asklepion".

An accomplished visual

Helene Steene arrived from Sweden in 1976 after having lived in England, Germany, Spain and Greece. She received part of her art education from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and in 2004, she received a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Kentucky. Her works have won numerous awards and have been shown in more than 200 exhibitions around the world. Her pieces can be found in both private and public collections in America and Europe. The most recent public works in Lexington, KY are "The Shimmering at the Edge," a 6x9 foot painting for the Markey Cancer Center at the University of Kentucky Medical Center, as well as a tapestry painting on the legacy trail, a wonderful walk/bike path in Lexington.

Helene Steene has a studio at the Lexington Art League, where she presently works on a series of mixed media paintings. The paintings are created with the textures and layers of information built up through additions and subtractions using sand, metal, oil, dry pigments and marble dust on wood or paper, inspired by her walks and wood works she encounters every summer during her stays on the Greek Island of Paros, where the ever changing sea and fauna also inspire her colors as well as the sensuous forms and colors of tulips in the Kentucky spring.

artist and world traveler, Helene's exhibit at GalerieFrancois II features works inspired by her visit every summer to her home on the Greek Island of Paros. "It's a place where I go partly for inspiration for my work, but it's also a place that's so good for my soul." The colors of the sea, sky, and the Greek horizons shape her pieces, spawning a feeling of healing as experienced in viewing many of her works. GalerieFrancois II is honored to open its very first exhibit with the abstract impressions of Helene Steene and thrilled to present her to the City of Roanoke at its new home located at 133 Campbell Avenue, Southwest.

Ms. Steene will be in Roanoke and will be available for any requests for meetings or interviews to discuss her art. Ms. Steene's work was previously on exhibit at the Taubman Museum of Art. Her work will be on display at GalerieFrancois II until November 27.

abstract, non-objective or figurative, there is always a search for something that signified a subtle inner beauty, depth and simplicity even when the forms are complex. I am intrigued by the tension between figures, forms, lines and colors that ultimately can resolve in harmony. Sometimes, this is achieved with more obvious forms, and sometimes with a delicate balance, attempting to give substance to the spaces that exist precisely because there are no objects."

"If my work can slow someone down to contemplate something within her or himself, if it can add a moment of focus on their inner peace in this absurd world, then I have reached the viewer. We, the viewer and the mark makers, would be connected through that ephemeral magic that is all around, as I am convinced that one's range of intellect is so trivial in the face of greater mysteries."



Whether my work is abstract, non-objective or figurative, there is always a search for something that signified a subtle inner beauty, depth and simplicity even when the forms are complex.



GalerieFrancois II Gallery  
presents Helene Steene "My Asklepion"  
Exhibit will run through November 4

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 12-6  
540-561-0925  
133 Campbell Ave. SW  
Roanoke, VA 24011

