

«Polar Coordinates»

↳ EXHIBITION: Véronique Bauler's artistic approach to projected impressions on canvas and paper.

Gusta van Dobbburgh
Curator

When I asked Véronique Bauler (who uses the name «Veronia» for her art work) where she had her first exposition ever, she straightforwardly replied «at the Montreux Art Manifestation.» I thought: that is certainly not a bad way to start. To say the least.

She applied for a stand at the manifestation in 2006 and was let in after two rounds of selections, because of her different and fresh approach to photographic projection on canvas and paper, after the images are changed and reshaped through the use of polar coordinates.

Bauler started photography in high school. One day the students had to do a photographic documentary on the theme «water.» «I took pictures of water everywhere,» she recalls. «I opened faucets, a whole row at the same time, took shots of puddles in the street, went out in nature, and had a great time doing it, loving to observe and look at the world around me.»

From that moment on she knew she wanted to stay with photography. But, as these things go, her family did not much approve. They suggested that she learn something that could earn her a guaranteed living, and they were concerned that photography would not provide her with that.

Bauler took on different jobs in the years that followed, and with most of them photography was a part of it, whether in the background or in a more pronounced way.



«Le sourire» © VÉRONIQUE BAULER

She worked as a freelance photographer for a while for «la Côte,» developing her pictures at home, and founded her own magazine «Scoop,» with a strong focus on art. The magazine still exists in Switzerland today, and was renamed «Regart» under new ownership. In between jobs she traveled in Europe, Asia and South America. She sometimes worked in the travel industry, and was always taking pictures.

To provide stability for her son, she found a job at EPFL, in the Air and Soil Pollution lab. And although she has been living in the Lausanne area for quite a while now, the international side of her life is still always visible; on the side, she teaches

French to a very multicultural group of adult immigrants in Renens.

How does the use of «polar coordinates» come through in her photography? Bauler works with Photoshop and applies the polar coordinates from that program to her pictures. It is the application of a filter that forms, bends or reshapes the initial photographic image. Plainly applied the result is a circle, but if intuition comes into play, and a bit of luck, she assured me, a wide range of shapes and forms, and interesting effects are the result. Retouching is sometimes necessary, because a created circular version of an image may not be perfectly round immediately.

Once applied to a canvas, the images could be either oil or acrylic paintings. She has also experimented with the version of this filter that turns images upside down, and combined it with «crystallization,» that leads to the actual projections on a canvas.

In this resulting «colorful contemporary universe» as she calls it, often a stylized figure of a person appears in such a way that it is hard to say whether it concerns a picture or a painted figure.

Bauler's canvases have a colorful, crisp, and fresh look to them, and they allow for multi-interpretation. «After having mainly worked on pieces that not only provided me with haphazard results initially, but were also the result of simply trying and having fun doing it, I can now also create and put together deliberately planned (series of) images,» Bauler says. «In that way the real world is transferred and taken on its wings by the imagination and the dream.»

Enjoy the show! ☺

Véronique Bauler
«Coordonnées Polaires»
Digital Art Photos -
Impressions sur toile
et papier
Opening:
Thursday February 21,
18h00 - 20h00
Cafeteria of the EL Buildings - Room ELA 010
Exhibition from
February 18 - March 26
Monday through Friday
8h45 - 17h00