

Artist wakes from sleep after six years

Arts Scene

by Heather Solomon

For six years, artist Lisa Kimberly Glickman was obsessed with sleep. That's because she wasn't getting any. Being able to visualize not only herself, but all of the people in her life with their eyes closed, was the closest she could get to relaxation.

Illness in the family caused her insomnia, but she's come through the other side. Her current solo exhibition, *Immersed*, is on until Dec. 21 at Galerie de la Ville in the Dollard Centre for the Arts in Montreal. The 35 acrylic and mixed media paintings, on canvas and birchwood, that are on display, have had an unusual audience since the opening on Nov. 25.

"They decided to use the gallery as an overflow waiting room for the flu vaccination clinic here," says Glickman, who was gratified that people all ages were temporarily distracted from their injection anxiety.

"From what I could see, children 'get' my work. The imaginary moments that are a little bit dreamy all make perfect sense to

them, whereas an adult may ask themselves why there are butterflies on top of that woman sleeping."

Butterflies, a hummingbird and dragonflies hover around her humans, as if trying to communicate, or join their spheres of existence. Her people are not only asleep or regaining consciousness in conventional settings, like on couches, but also on the ground in a marsh, in the middle of the woods, cradled on waves and even submerged under water.

For Glickman, the combinations are symbolic, as she tries to impart the powers that the creatures and surroundings symbolize.

"The hummingbirds in the painting of my daughter Zoe are with her to protect her, as she crosses back and forth across the continent from Nova Scotia to California. She's a plant biologist and travels to investigate grapevine root stock," says Glickman.

Zoe's twin sister, Rose, is a hip-hop blogger, who's depicted with dragonflies that "represent transformation and passion."

A key to the animal, fish and bird symbols is available at the gallery's desk and makes for a fascinating accompaniment



Lisa Kimberly Glickman is immersed in nature at her Galerie de la Ville solo exhibition until Dec. 21. HEATHER SOLOMON PHOTO

to the paintings. Dripped backgrounds and collaged textiles with accents of copper and gold leaf add to the richness.

Glickman's son, Jonah Migicovsky, blissfully floats face up with fish that symbolize spiritual growth and help one move forward.

He is also her creative partner in another enterprise, The Paintographers, whereby she paints on his analog photographs, again adding a touch of magic to the realism of abandoned buildings and Mexican alleyways. The joint works have been the

subject of their own exhibitions.

Glickman, who holds art and education degrees from the Rhode Island School of Design and McGill University, taught high school and now, in semi-retirement, can devote more of her time to making art.

The new landscapes take her out of the city and along the forested trails of St-Lazare that she rides year-round with the horse that she's owned for 11 years. He's a freckled white gelding that she calls her "therapist."

From his back, she snaps cellphone photos that inspire the stained glass skies in her paintings, glinting like jewels between patterns of overhead branches.

Glickman's forests all have the aspect of freedom and light and one can practically taste her enjoyment of being out in nature.

"We also see deer, fox, coyotes, owls, hawks, turkeys and pheasants when we're riding," says the artist, who is also well known for her stunning animal portraits. Don't miss the bright-eyed robin or the wheaten terrier that are guiding spirits in two of the works in the show. ■

For more of Glickman's work, go to lkglickman.com.



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