



Tatjana Debeljački vs.

Elizabeth Hack

Interview

Can you tell us something about your hometown and growing up?

I had many hometowns since my dad was in the military and our family moved frequently. Some of the places we lived are Kentucky, Kansas, New York, Washington, Virginia, Pennsylvania and abroad in Germany.

When did you discover your artistic talent?

During my college years I explored various art forms that included filmmaking, poetry, writing, music and drama. During that time, I had the opportunity to perform in Peter Schumann's Bread and Puppet Theater. It was an eye opening

experience with the mixing of artistry that included larger than life sculptural puppets.

These earlier studies and explorations led to my painting and work in publishing and editing.

I graduated from the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and then later received a Master of Media Arts from the University of South Carolina.

Where do you find inspiration and whose artistic work do you enjoy most?

For inspiration I frequently visit Sea Ranch, a coastal town north of San Francisco. My Wave Series paintings began there -- I find it fascinating when you look at the ocean up close you see the waves moving and crashing but viewed from a distance the waters look so calm and still.

Artists that I enjoy are Hokusai, Van Gogh, Monet and Jeannie Motherwell (cover artist for San Francisco Peace and Hope).

Is there anything that connects poetry and painting? How do you see them together?

Poetry and painting both capture the essence of an object and form in a concise yet profound way. Sometimes a poem is visual poetry and vice versa. They are a natural fit together and that is why they are paired up in the book.

The paintings of artist have been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions at galleries throughout California ?

Yes, including the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara; the University of California in Berkeley at the ASUC Studio; the Hayward Arts Council Gallery in Hayward; the AWE Gallery in San Francisco; the Berkeley Art Center; the Ashkenazy Gallery in Los Angeles; Carol Dabb Fine Art; the Commonwealth Club Gallery in San Francisco and the Alameda Historical Museum in Alameda, CA.

The true purpose of art is to uplift humankind, inspire reverence and morality, and instill in people's hearts a true sense of beauty?

Absolutely.

Contemplation on Consciousness of Life?

Yes, to reflect, contemplate and transcend in pursuit of a higher consciousness.

Welcome to San Francisco Peace and Hope is a long-time dream come true in terms of fine literature, art and photography?

San Francisco Peace and Hope is a long-time dream for me and of course it never would have been possible without all the talent from the artists, writers and poets.

This started by a small home spun blog the day after 9/11 and later evolved in 2010 into an online publication www.sfpeaceandhope.com. Now San Francisco Peace and Hope makes its debut as a book.

Could you tell us something about the magazine you publish? What is its concept and what are the cultural contents of Welcome to San Francisco Peace and Hope?

San Francisco Peace and Hope is a collection of poetry and visual art that draws inspiration from the Bay area. The anthology includes local and international voices that reflect a hopeful vision during these turbulent times.

Poems and artwork are paired together and there is an in-depth foreword by Al Young California's Poet Laureate Emeritus. The cover art is by noted artist Jeannie Motherwell, who is also interviewed.

The book examines global change while celebrating the eternal, changeless aspects of life.

What can you tell us about your work, prizes, journeys and friendships?

Highlights include a two year exhibition in Fiji sponsored by the Art in Embassies program. I also had the pleasure of serving as artist in residence at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco where I gave talks and demonstrations.

I have made many friends along the way including Al Young, Jeannie Motherwell, Kit Kennedy, Vince Storti and AWE Gallery. And many of the poets and artists in the publication I have gotten to know over the years.

Do you think you have outwitted the expectations?

I am enormously moved by all that has happened. We have held many readings and events in the Bay area and most recently the book was featured on a poetry tv show. The book release event held at AWE gallery drew a standing room only crowd with music and presentations by the artists and poets in the publication.

How do you manage all that with so much work that you do? Do you have time for yourself? What inspires you?

There always seems to be an enormous workload. I am eternally grateful to the contributors who have made San Francisco Peace and Hope what it is. The collaboration is wonderful – in fact this is how you and I have connected with your poem, “Perfection”, published in the book.

Walking along the bluffs by the Pacific Ocean is one of the ways I take time for contemplation.

Is there anything that you could pinpoint and tell us about yourself between dreams and reality?

Gaining understanding of our dreams either individually and/or collectively can put us in contact with a deeper part of ourselves. Dreams give us entry into another realm, perhaps a fifth dimension.

One of my favorite quotes is “There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.” – Shakespeare

What are your plans for the future creative work?

To keep striving for artistic challenges, including more issues of San Francisco Peace and Hope, and creating a new series of paintings.

Elizabeth Hack’s career in a few years?

A deeper more expansive body of work. I am continually learning.

Have you achieved everything you have ever wanted to and if you could live your life again would you be an artist again?

I would choose to be an artist again, however, I wish there was more time in life to sample other paths. I would have considered being a zoologist, scientist or even a yogi.

Is there anything you would like to say that you think is important and that I haven't asked you ?

I feel that community is important both globally and locally. The social media plays an important role in making those artistic connections. Perhaps a new renaissance can emerge as we all work together to promote and encourage the arts. A tall order, I realize, but much needed during these times.

Elizabeth, thank-you! It was a great pleasure talking to you and you are always welcome to our house "Diogen pro culture magazine".

What an honor to have this interview with you. Thank you so much.