

Rizzi: Painting and Sculpture

July 19 thru Aug. 13 at the Diners Gallery

By E. Zarra

"Do you feel more Italian than Colombian?"

"I belong more to this period of time," that is a specific place. Background affects one's work, but not a specificity or culture. However, I am originally from Argentina."

laughter

"Yes, I never thought about painting but while I searched for ideas for a thesis I discovered a special interest in literature which I also studied. It all affects my painting now."

Meris Ferese Ricci is an Argentine-born Italian who studied Philosophy and Literature at the Andes University in Bogota and resides in New York. She studied art at the Student's Art League, Parsons School of Design and New York Studio School in NY. She has had six individual exhibitions and has shown her work in 23 international shows. This is her third time exhibiting in Bogota.

"Was it your thesis or?"

"Aesthetics and identity. Aesthetic elements in art throughout cultures and history. Different history."

"How did you start painting?"

"I was tired of books and was sick for a long period of time when I saw a vision of Picasso that inspired me to do it with something."

"I traveled and somehow ended up in an art school where I began putting a portfolio together. I never knew it back."

"When I finished, I set up my own studio in New York city."

"How often do you come to Bogota?"

"Although I really love everything in New York and I still send exhibit, I like being here because in a way I feel specially appreciated. And this feeling is important for me and my career too. Besides, in the States one can easily be labelled as

"woman and minority."

"I hate circles of specific types. That's why I show at international events, even if it takes longer to make it big or become famous."

"Obviously, my priorities are not to become famous. I work in what I like. I change and explore at my pace, not at the pace of reviews. Art new days is very commercial and often vacuums out knowledge and real artistic creation."

"I believe art can save our lives. It fills us spiritually. It is the only way of really expressing our true feelings."

"Art transcends materialism. It's always there to communicate with."

"Tell us about your work."

"For many years I worked figurative painting. I lived in Rome for a year and a half and changed to abstract painting, yet keeping the original colors and compositions. The flat, vertical or horizontal grid lines I paint today were once making figures or amorphous animals."

"Surface, form, and composition are my areas of study now. I like geometric vigourousness. Recently I show painting along with sculpture."

"Sculpting is really the only thing I could directly associate with Latin America of what I do. Maybe because of the use of the material, which is so basic. I like raw earthy colors. These are considered by many as primitive Latin American colors. However, Africans and Indians and even Egyptians in their static and spiritual way use them also."

"Fetters, Figures and Fossils", you were part of that exhibition in New York. How was it?

"was chosen while I was still in school. It was my first exhibit and I was proud being the youngest artist. I was still working figuratively,

and my paintings were experiences or feelings. But now I have discovered abstraction. I think I express myself better."



"Black hole" M.T. Ricci



"Straight horns" M.T. Ricci

