

Life-long Fascination With the Sea Inspires Mimi Cernyar Fox's Powerful Work in Gallery 110 Show

Seattle, Washington - *Water, Water Everywhere*, an exhibition of paintings by Mimi Cernyar Fox, will open at the 110 Gallery on November 1, 2018. Fox's powerful works explore the grandeur and mystery of the ocean, a topic that has fascinated her for decades.

During her years as an art student, Mimi Fox tended bar in the historic bay front district of Newport, Oregon. She became good friends with the commercial fishermen and women, who frequented the bar during storms and after long days at sea. She began fishing with them, and doing sketches of them as she listened to their fascinating tales of life and work at sea.

During the summer fishing season, she went to sea on a fishing boat as a cook and night lookout, always studying the light and movement of the water as the boat moved up and down the Oregon coast. During free times and her lonely four hour night watch, she would make sketches and color notations in her journal.

Later in life, Fox moved to Raymond, Washington with her husband, Dante, a commercial fisherman himself. In that small coastal town, her experiences at sea began to find expression on canvases in her studio.

"I build the images as forward and backward movement for the eye, much like the movement of tidal waves is created," Fox said. "I'm conscious of the rhythm and movement of the sea and work to paint it in such a way that one can almost hear it.

"My adventurous soul was intimately moved by my experiences at sea, where one's smallness becomes keenly obvious in contrast with the vast ocean and endless, ever-changing horizon. The movement and light on the water is expressed in my paintings, along with the passionate inner dialogue that flows from this source of life."

Fox says that present-day fishing vessels are not that different from those in the 19th and 20th centuries, A typical salmon troller runs a boat the same size as those built 150 years ago. It's also about the same size of a small frigate of the 1850's, and the fishermen's skills and traits are the same today as were those required 150 years ago.

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Some of her sketches for the paintings in her show were done at sea. When working as galley cook She would take a sketch book and pastels along.

"I use the ocean as a symbol of unleashed power. Then I try to bring the viewer into the time-less arena of space. I create mood with expressive brushwork and bold use of color. I am inspired also by writings, stories of the sea such as: ***Moby Dick, In the Heart of the Sea*** and a ballad by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, ***Rime of the Ancient Mariner***. I have created a large screen illustrating the Rime, with the entire poem written on the reverse side."

Fox holds a bachelor's degree from Pacific NW College of Art (where she also taught), and a master's degree from Washington State University. She has shown her drawings, paintings and installations at Gallerie Etienne de Causans (Paris, France), at Blackfish Gallery (Portland, Oregon), and presently at J. Pepin Art Gallery (Portland), and Gallery 110, (Seattle).