

## Sabeth Holland

### “Sensuality and the joy of colour”

by Peter Augustin

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Galerie Augustin, 1010 Vienna, Lugeck 3/Köllnerhofgasse 1,  
presents, from 17 April to 15 May 2004,  
paintings in oil and gold on canvas, by Sabeth Holland

**Anyone who has seen a painting by Sabeth Holland will not forget her style and will immediately recognise it again anywhere - her work, in oil, pigments and precious metals on canvas, is so colourful, complex and meaningful.**

*(after Ch. Lampart, Thurgauer Zeitung 2003)*

**The Swiss artist's complete devotion to sensuality and the joy of colour has led her to create a dreamy, fairy-tale world in glorious, radiant colours and real gold.**

Sabeth Holland is an artist who found international recognition within a very short space of time and, despite the success she has already achieved, has only just begun to reveal her potential. It is possible to make out a certain ease in her development that is mirrored in her work.

Nevertheless, it is not her style to make bold statements. She seeks out what is profound, genuine and lasting, and she allows herself time to create her works of art. These emerge through her method of applying numerous layers of colour and graphical elements on top of one another. For the most part, the texture of the uppermost layers has an almost organic effect, consisting of velvety pigment surfaces, oil colours applied in a pastos technique and generous amounts of gold. The next stage of the process involves scratching and digging at the layers in order to draw the viewer's gaze here and there, back to the surfaces of colour lying deeper within. This produces a painting composed of a mixture of levels and free of any perspective. It shows that which is hidden and, in the finished artwork, reveals the timelessness and weightlessness typical of Sabeth Holland.

Despite a strong use of abstraction, she does not completely give up the connection to the figurative. Her compositions are based mainly on organic forms. However, in their essence, these forms have developed away from their natural models and find themselves in new contexts.

Deep feelings such as love, intimacy and joy are transferred to their representatives in the figurative depictions. Unmistakable here too is that she gives colour to the atmospheric, as well as the hint of unreality and fantasy. People are combined with nature. A unity emerges, more part of a dream than a real presence. Nonetheless, her paintings do not recede into an intangible distance. Her powerful characteristic style, and colour palette rich in contrasts and nuances, prevent this from happening.

Like scarcely any other artist, Sabeth Holland successfully manages to make the exciting events of her own emotions and experience become visible in the deep structures of her canvases, using an unprecedented language of forms and symbols that she has created. Her extraordinary sensitivity, her amazing sense of colour harmony and her acute feel for the transcendental realm direct the focus of her work on building an alternative world to the black and grey tones of world events. The joy of her works has a harmonious, infectious and inspiring effect.

Since 1995, she has been represented at numerous international art fairs.

Her works are regularly shown in solo and group exhibitions in Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. Since 1996, an impressive number of entire art concepts have been incorporated in buildings and in public spaces.

The publications "15 years Contemporary Art", Sabeth Holland – p.j.j.n.h." and "Sabeth Holland – 2003, bunt" document her work since the year 2000.

*(Text also used for the three exhibitions February – April 2005.*

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