

Tatjana Krizmanic

KOAN

An exhibition of oil paintings on canvas and gouache on paper

Shumei International Institute Gallery

Crestone Colorado

April 3rd – May 15th 2009

artist's talk and reception April 19th 2009 3 - 5 p.m.

This new series of abstract expressionist paintings draws on the landscape of Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. Krizmanic chose the title "Koan" for this series in part



based on conversations with her friend Elizabeth Mattis-Namgyel, who is writing a book titled "The Power of an Open Question". In her writing Namgyel explores the notion of koan as an approach to the complexities of life: what if we leave our experience open, rather than draw immediate conclusions or respond habitually? Her work dovetails with Krizmanic's own inquiry into a more open artistic expression. All of the works in this series contain in them an open question; in a way they are an expression of the open question.

Overall this retreat from the representational work for which Tatjana is known has provided a space for a more liberated expression, free of containment. For Krizmanic these paintings provide a larger sphere of inner and outer space, often resembling a passage through time and sound as well as emotional and literal landscape. Some of the paintings also pay homage to musical works she often listens to when I paint. The dynamic structure of "Amphibian Habitat" recalls Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words*; "Arroyo" and "Ojo Caliente" resound with Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*, while "Winter Water" and "Man on a Cliff" echo with Chopin's *Sonatas*.

At the artist's presentation, April 19th, 3-5 p.m. Krizmanic will be talking about creativity in general and a way to observe and express that is in concert with natural creative expression. She will show some of my figurative work and its evolution and connection to the abstracts.