

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tatjana Krizmanic: Elation Exhibit at Loveland Museum/Gallery

LOVELAND, CO *Tatjana Krizmanic: Elation* will be on display at the Loveland Museum/Gallery from June 24, - October 2, 2011. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, June 23 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The opening and exhibit are free and open to the public.

Tatjana Krizmanic's brilliant pastel drawings and oil paintings depict ordinary life with a distinctly European sensibility. Krizmanic's work is marked by a warm cheerfulness, where bright colors and swirling perspectives make everyday settings come alive. She brings a touch of magic to commonplace scenes, such as a trip to the farmers' market or morning coffee. Surreal and inventive, her work recalls Chagall, Matisse, Klimt, Picasso - influences she grew up with.

Krizmanic is a keen observer of human nature and affect. Her scenes are energetic and effectively explode from the picture plane. However, a meticulous observation of the individuals in each piece shows her mastery of body language and its ability to impart strong emotion. She is a student of a subtle yet powerfully important gesture. Krizmanic's hallmark style is most evident in her street scenes, where she upends compositional rules, emphasizing a single figure in the foreground, or leaving the central area devoid of any action. This forces the eye to dance around, re-creating the liveliness of the scene as experienced by the artist.

Krizmanic continues to challenge herself as an artist. A recent series of abstracts is a massive departure, although roots of this can be seen most easily in her still lifes. These pieces retain the quality of composition, planned through broad shapes and expanses of color. The changes in color value create a rhythm of recession and ascension that breathes life into these beautifully crafted images, forming a stylistic link with her figural representations. Krizmanic strikes a balance between careful design and evocative expression.

Born in Zagreb, Croatia, Tatjana started painting at age fourteen. After studying at the University of Zagreb, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she completed her studies at Georgetown University. Over the next ten years she created paintings for friends and patrons, while working as an art director. Since her first exhibit in Boulder, Colorado, she has built a strong following, and her paintings reside in numerous private collections and museums. Her work is shown in galleries in United States, Canada, Europe and Japan. Krizmanic divides her time between her home on the Adriatic coast and Boulder, Colorado.

Programming

Artist Forum

Friday, August 12, 6:00 pm

A Gallery Talk with the Artist will be held during the monthly Night on the Town event.

Pastels on 5th

September 10, 2011

Artists, sponsors and downtown Loveland come together to transform 5th Street into a spectacular sidewalk gallery. This is a free, family-friendly, community-wide event to benefit Alternatives to Violence and the future Safehouse project. Artists and sponsors can find more information and sign up at www.alternativestoviolence.org/pastels.html.

Artist's Statement

The love of painting started for me in the magical hills of Istria, a peninsula located in northwestern Croatia just across the bay from Venice. A family friend and well-known Croatian painter, Nikola Reiser, had taken me along on a *plein aire* session. I carried his easel and oil paints and felt quite important in my job – as any 11 year old might. As I sat watching the brilliant sparkles of the bay from a hillside of gently sloping vineyards and gardens, my attention was drawn to the canvas where a seemingly similar scene was unfolding. However, this scene was painted in quick strokes that evoked the salty breezes, colors that spoke of the artist's mood, light that placed it at about 2 p.m. and a composition that seemed to flow way beyond the canvas itself. The drama unfolding in front of my eyes was pure expression of heart.

In that split second I became "addicted", for the lack of a better word, to this ability, perhaps opportunity is a better word, to express the innate vitality that courses through all of us and our environments. The painting was not realistic – it was barely more than a compilation of pigmented strokes, a sketch almost – yet it conveyed the fullness of the moment perfectly.

Over the following years, I have attempted to stay true to the accidental discovery of expression on that warm Mediterranean day. Much of my work evokes moments, like snapshots, of life – the joy and beauty of rich natural surroundings as well as ordinary everyday experience. In the magical world of a lama dance or a line of ripe pears on a window sill the joy of expression is equal. An abstract or figurative piece is essentially the same in its

expression of life.

The great satisfaction of my work is that when people view it, many years after it was created, they experience the very same sentiment, appreciation and joy of the moment as when it was created. In that sense the paintings don't just capture a moment in a static way but they live on in the eyes of those who perceive them.

I would paint no matter whether anyone liked it or not. For me painting is an expression that I feel compelled to do, but it is more than that also – painting at times has been my “best friend”, a way to make sense of things, a connection to life force. It has been my privilege to be able to share it

Attached Photos

These photos represent three styles of Krizmanic's paintings.

Still Life: Artist's Table

Abstract: Moon Over Crestone

Street Scene: Springtime in the City

The Loveland Museum/Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thursdays 10:00 am - 7:00 pm; Saturdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; Sundays 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm; Closed Mondays. For more information, please call the Loveland Museum/Gallery at 970-962-2410. The Loveland Museum/Gallery is located at 503 N Lincoln Avenue, the corner of 5th and Lincoln, in Loveland, Colorado.

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