



GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING **LES MOULINS**

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ETEL ADNAN

19/10/2014 – 21/12/2014

Opening: Sunday 19th of October 2014, 12–6pm
from Wednesday to Sunday, 12–6pm

GALLERIA CONTINUA is honoured
to present the work of Etel
Adnan for the first time at the
Moulin de Sainte-Marie.

Poet, novelist, essayist, and artist, Etel Adnan is a major female figure in contemporary culture. Born in Beirut in 1925 to a Syrian Muslim father and a Greek Christian mother, Adnan's childhood belonged to the landscapes of Lebanon and Syria, followed by a period in France, before crossing the majestic planes of the United States.

Seen as one of the most important representatives of the diaspora of Arab intellectuals, Adnan is also a pioneer in women's liberation. The earliest date for her paintings is 1958, the year she left for the San Francisco of Ginsberg, Kerouac, and Snyder, to take up a position teaching philosophy at the University of California.

With a deep propensity towards nature and its originary symbiosis with our existence, Adnan showed a series of landscapes each devoid of the human figure at DOCUMENTA (13) in 2012. Emerging from a desire to represent the physical beauty of the universe and the intense, amorous tie she has maintained with it, the

artist's paintings gave evidence of a clear and assured hand.

At GALLERIA CONTINUA / Les Moulins, Etel Adnan has chosen to present a series of 8 paintings from between 1967 and 1983, as well as a mural in ceramic specially conceived for the wall of the garden. This monumental composition, entitled *Le Soleil amoureux de la Lune* and measuring 35 metres in length, represents the lunar and solar cycles. Each segment has been hand painted with their special technique by the famous Mazzotti artisans of Albisola in Italy.

Carried by the forces and mysteries of nature, Etel Adnan contemplates and transcribes it in her way, whether through writing or painting. At the Moulins, Adnan shows the real beauty of nature and with the mural she inscribes its passage through time: painted in a park of about fifteen hectares, the mural transports us out of the world of the senses and into the world of abstraction.

Etel Adnan writes in her work *Voyage au mont Tamalpaïs* :

«I always thought that dreaming was the honor of the human species.

The logic of dreams is superior to the one we exercise while awake. In dreams the mind at last finds its courage : it dares what we do

not dare. It also creates : from nightmares to fantastic calculations... and it perceives reality beyond our fuzzy interpretations. In dreams we swim and fly and we are not surprised. »

« As I was walking, once more, I met a young women sitting by the trail. We talked for a while. She told me that the ancestors of the human race had thrown the sun up in the air and that the universe reddened and burned slowly and devoured them... volcanoes threw up more suns and more moons (Tamalpais was one of them) and they are still burning somewhere, and that we are searching for them, astronauts are combing space and looking for them, and we shall one day find the hour, the place and the light. »

There are yellow rays like laser beams, arrows— an energy of lightening. There are thousands of suns: a mauve sun above a volcano, a perfectly round, red sun, a shy blue sun hiding in the fog, a roasted and reddening sun, a black, stuck sun. There are multitudes of moons and half moons, red as if they reflected the fires of the earth, full and drunk, bluish, announcing the new day... The dream of the Sun embracing the Moon.