

natasha krenbol



In this world we walk
On hell's roof
And we look at the flowers.

Issa Kobayashi (1763 - 1828), Japanese poet

Natasha Krenbol belongs to the generation of Jean Dubuffet's children - or rather grandchildren - but also to that of poets like Henri Michaux.

Nourished at the sources of blues, jazz, and the ancestral music of all the continents, she is among those artists whose global culture and mixed blood seem to contain the memory of every vanishing ethnic group: one in a family of primitive and cosmopolitan poets who belong to the larger family of endangered Mother Earth. Her works draw their inspiration from what is commonly termed the "Third-World" and from contact with countries where life is simple and resources are often scarce, and where genuine social relationships, can still be found. No wonder that her works should open frontiers, which in her opinion, should have disappeared long ago.

In the process, another mental life became familiar to Krenbol. For her, "objective chances" signs, encounters form a web that makes everyday life mystical in an age when life itself is surrealistic.

For her, painting is total commitment, a way of life, of breathing, as is music that accompanies her everywhere. She offers us the possibility of seeing other tunes and other blends. Her paintings are full of life: there everything dances and everything moves. They express a whole culture that she carries everywhere with her, as does the travelling storyteller with his personal mythology.

Animals, plants, human beings, imaginary creatures, all beings are of equal merit in Krenbol's universe, where the small and the great are of equal importance in the eyes of the Creator. One senses a particular tenderness for the one thousand and one small, essential details of contingency, which form the miracle and the charm of existence. It's a universe where natural animism prevails, where life runs its course, at its own pace, stubborn and obstinate like the donkey, Totopiok's favourite companion.

Man is a player that struts and frets his hour on this abstract stage against a graffiti-like background. Moreover, it is here perhaps that resides the secret of what gives so much life to these works : the superimposition of at least two worlds, two concerns, at variance and at the same time complimentary, just as in life. It is a far cry from that univocal, monolithic art which coldly hinges on a lifeless "concept" and which due to imbalance can only limp along. Here, on the contrary, poetry rediscovers the space of free expression, and one senses the freshness of an unfettered and talented improvisation : one which knows how to, as in music, combine the feeling, the talent and the very particular sense of balance that great living artists develop by dint of warding off blows from all sides.



Laurent DANCHIN
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Translated by Elaine WALSH

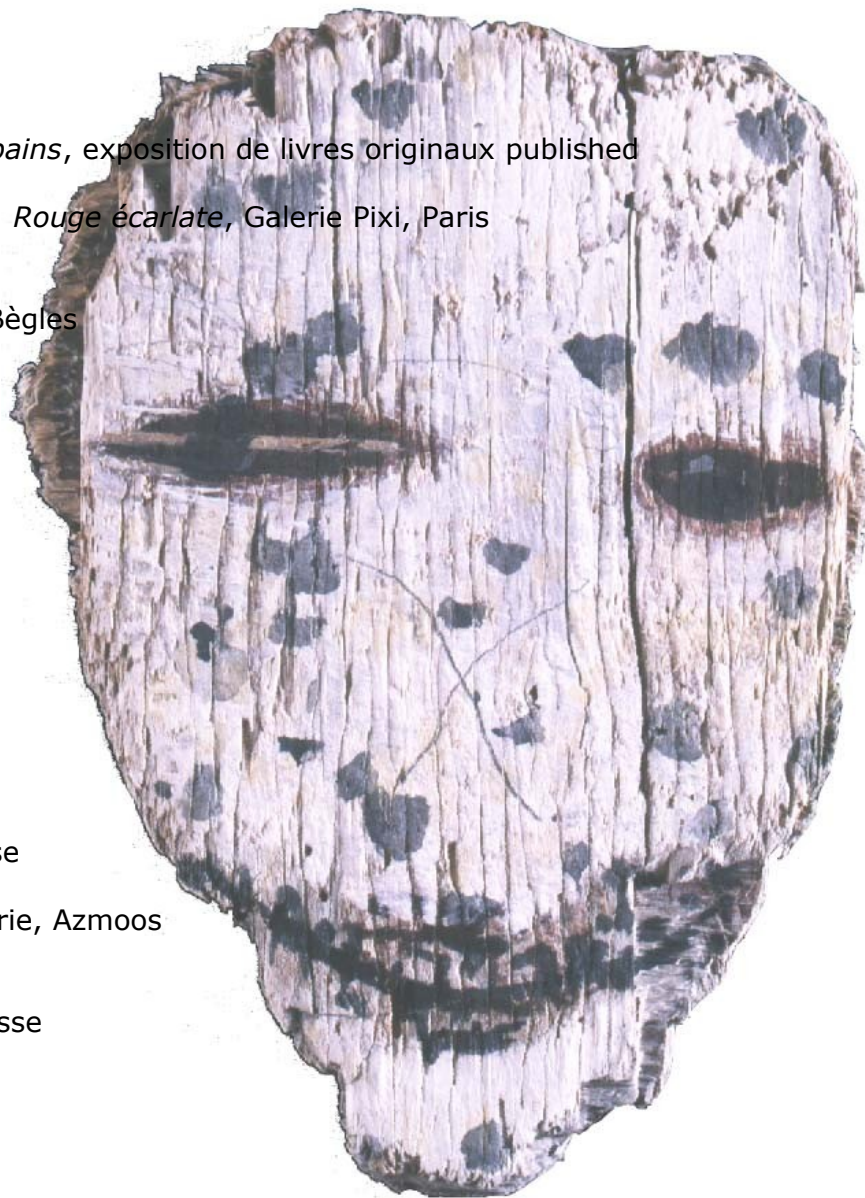
1978 – 1982 Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts de Paris
1985 – 1986 Kala Institute, Berkeley, California

Group shows

- 1988 Centre Pompidou, Paris : *Paysage : parcs urbains et suburbains*, exposition de livres originaux published in Cahiers du CCI, éditions du Centre Pompidou
1990 *Coups d'envois ou l'art à la lettre*, Musée de la poste, Paris; *Rouge écarlate*, Galerie Pixi, Paris
1991 *Les guichets de l'enfance*, Musée de la poste, Paris
1993 *Timbres d'artistes*, Musée de la poste, Paris
Les jardiniers de la mémoire, Site de la Création Franche, Bègles
1995 Galerie Hamer, Amsterdam
1996 Altstadt galerie, Bern
1998 *Outsider Art Fair*, New York
Far out' 98, Judy A Saslow gallery, Chicago
Halle Saint-Pierre, Paris
1999 Funabashi city gallery, Japon - Art Space Rashinban, Tokyo
2002 Prieuré de Manthes, Drôme, France
2003 *Le printemps des singuliers*, Espace Saint-Martin, Paris
2004 Galerie Taa, Crest, France
2008 Le Belvédère, Saint-Martin d'Uriage, France
2009 Hôtel de l'Univers, Saillans, France

Personal exhibitions

- 1991 *Le couloir des ancêtres*, La petite galerie, Paris
1994 Galerie Hamer, Amsterdam - Galerie Bad Schinznach, Suisse
Galerie du Ressort, Paris
1995 Galerie Avantgarde, Mannheim, Allemagne - Trubahus galerie, Azmoos
Galerie Jonas, Petit-Cortailod, Neuchâtel, Suisse
1996 Am Platz galerie, Eglisau, Suisse
1997 Altstadt-halle, Zug, Suisse - Trubahus galerie, Azmoos, Suisse
1998 Galerie d'Origine, Lyon - Altstadt galerie, Bern
1999 Galerie Jonas, Petit-Cortailod, Neuchâtel, Suisse
2000 *Twilight*, Am Platz galerie, Eglisau, Suisse
2005 Galerie [Art@ctua](#), Le Mans, France
2007 Galerie Art Prise de Tête, Romans, France



From 1986 to 1994, publishes ink drawings in *Le Monde diplomatique*, *Le Monde de l'éducation* and *Politis*, the *Totopiok chronicle* (texts and paintings) in *L'Autre Journal* and *Dada*, art magazine for children.