

The Drawers - Headbones Gallery

Contemporary Drawing, Sculpture and Works on Paper

Irina Dascalu

An Erotic Exotic Christmas
December 9 - January 11, 2007



Commentary by Julie Oakes

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Irina Dascalu Julie Oakes

With the hand of a European master, Irina Dascalu exhibits the head of a European mistress. She exposes herself, not blatantly, but after a courting period, a series of lunches and discrete visits and then she extends the invitation into her boudoir. In the soft light that glows from the vestiges of the past, the firm discipline born of tradition sheds a clue to the complex nature of the artist.

Her ability to render is sure. The wealth of taste coupled with the knowledge of great works done in studios lit in the past, under colored skylights or illuminated by southern exposures bleeds through to the present century. Her ability to surrender is not so secure. The dark renaissance background with the female figure glowing as if lit by a bank of candelabras placed on heavy furniture in a castle is misted by striped wisps. She is wrapped in cellophane so that the bulbous flow of breast and hip is smothered into pressurized folds like a shrink wrapped chicken. Yet, she is still sexy, seemingly squirming, ready to be unwrapped and used, her juices marinated by the breathless shroud. Like the biblical phrase "giveth and taketh away", she has been complicit in the bondage. She is awake. She is exploring arenas that many women cannot bear to acknowledge existing, the female - objectified, packaged and ready to be picked. It is because Irina Dascalu is strong, and like Houdini, knows how to break free of bondage, that she is not only able to tackle the subject matter but brings to it inimitable insight. The woman bound is Irina. The artist who is presenting the woman bound is Irina and the woman who is breaking free of any psychological bondage is irrevocably Irina Dascalu. For once these images have been entered in the great image bank of art history, they have been exposed and the perpetrator who denies liberation is brought to trial and condemned.

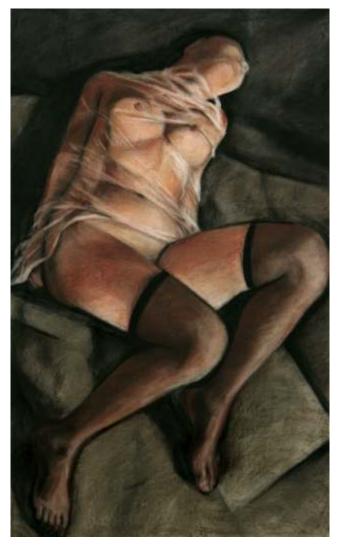
Irina Dascalu has, in the past, drawn and painted women's bodies where the identity has always been hidden, the face covered or severed by the boundaries of the page. In this recent series, Irina reverses the captured moment like a flash that can only be developed as a negative. With the body wrapped and the head flung back, eyes shut and silence waiting to be broken, who is in control here? Only one, the artist, Irina Dascalu. She knows absolutely, who and what is being given or taken away.



Black Socks 1 charcoal on paper, 43 x 27 in 2006



Black Socks 2 charcoal on paper, 43 x 27 in 2006



Black Socks 3 charcoal on paper, 43 x 27 in 2006



Reclining Nude 1 pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in 1999







Reclining Nude 4 pastel on paper, 48 x 36 in 1999



Reclining Nude 5 pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in 1999



Reclining Nude 6 pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in 1999



Reclining Nude 7 pastel on paper, 36 x 48 in 1999

Irina Dascalu

Born in 1952 Romania. In 1975 graduated (B.A.) from the Bucharest Academy of Romania. Emigrated to Canada in 1981and curently lives and works in Toronto.

Activity	
1975-80	Numerous personal and group shows in Romania
1981-84	Member of the Open Studio, Toronto
1982	Group Show, Merton Gallery, Toronto
1983	New Works, Gallery 44, Toronto
1984	Group Show, Kozack Gallery, Toronto
1985	New Works, Gallery 503, Toronto
1986	Group Show, Alliance Francaise, Toronto
1992	Personal Works-Retrospective Show, Bacau Romania
1992	Artist in residence "Rosetti Tescani-George Enescu" Art Foundation, Tescani
	Romania
1993	New Works, Del Bello Gallery, Toronto
1997	National Small Works Show, Montclair University, N.Y.
1999	The 5th Annual Pastel Competition, La Fond Gallery, Pittsburgh P.A.
1999	Nudes Pastel Drawings, Riverside Gallery, Toronto
1999	Artist in residence/show "Rosetti Tescani-George Enescu" Art Foundation,
	Tescani Romania
2000	175th Annual Exhibition, National Academy of Design, New York, N.Y.
1999-02	Riverdale Art Walk participations, Toronto
2003	Artist in residence Galeria "Petra M. Bohuna", Slovakia Awards
1978	Second Prize printmaking, National Printmaking Competition, Romania
1978	First Prize Satirical Art National Competition, Romania
1979	First Prize, National Drawing Competition, Romania
1999	2nd Honorable Mention, Pittsburgh P.A.
2002	Grand Prize, Riverdale Art Walk, Toronto

Bibliography:

Romanian Artists in the "West" I.Jianu, Paris France 1985 Irina Dascalu is represented in Bacau Museum of Art, Romanian and Canadian collections.

