

Delicate Japanese Art

Cristina Coroleu and her work whose strokes evoke the Land of the Rising Sun

"And what is it, the heart?/ It is the sound of the pine breeze in the ink painting", said Yasunary Kawabata, master of Japanese literature. And some time earlier, Chao Pu'che, a Chinese poet, claimed that when someone paints bamboos, those bamboos are already made in the heart. Cristina Coroleu must have experienced part of that when she first visited Japan, two years ago. She felt surrounded by a world that was not foreign to her and that brought her permanently closer to the master of paintbrush with black ink painting.

"Seshu was the great master of sumi-e in the Muromachi period, and to whom my first Argentinian teacher, Oscar Ortega, brought me closer through his knowledge of how to communicate the vitality in the strokes, the gestures, the voids, and teaching me the aesthetic nature of monochrome. It is true that I address color and, by doing so, I break with Japanese tradition by entering a native plant, because I feel the need to express, in Japanese terms, a narrative, a poetics of what is ours. But I have never abandoned traditional Japanese painting, which constitutes my foundation, my formative mother and the technique I fell in love with."

Solidarity

The contemplative gaze, the calm voice and the serenity of the soul, all of that was always latent in the artist, who lives in Belgrano and has her new atelier in Colegiales. Cristina Coroleu had her first experiences in Graphic Arts in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and started her training in the Japanese ink wash in the Centro Argentino de Estudios Japoneses (Argentinian Center of Japanese Studies), where she met Tomiji Kubota, her muse: "Just as with Seshu -says Coroleu- I let myself be guided by him, who was a master of lacquer and haiku, and by the freedom given to me by Carlos Gilardenghi. That opened new paths for me: I stepped away from the chrysanthemum, the cherry-tree, and the bamboo and I moved much closer to the native flower."

From the joy of flowers to the intensity of a tree bark. From the brightness of colors to the melancholy of black and white.

During the inauguration of Cristina Coroleu's exposition -which can be visited until the 26th of the current month in the art gallery Arcimboldo, in Reconquista 761 PA 14, Monday through Friday, from 15 to 19 PM-, Sebastián López referred to the work as the body as dot and matrix.

"He says that there are strokes in my work that evoke Japan, but I also evoke an experience, that of embracing a tree, of feeling I am a tree in the desolation they express faced to the environmental deforestation." Trees as a legacy of Charles Thays and trees that, according to López, Cristina Coroleu "gives life to in the grain of a paper with a skin that is ours, and with an experience that is Buenos Aires' turned into bark and flower."

Andrés Asato