



Irma Michaela

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	Name	Irma Michaela Szalkay
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	Biography	<p>„The modern artist, it seems to me, is working and expressing an inner world; in other words, expressing the energy, the motion and other inner forces,“ Jackson Pollock once said. Contemporary artist Irma Michaela Szalkay creates colorful mixed-media masterpieces exploring art’s physical, mental, and emotional dimensions, reflecting those meanings together and in depth. Fascinated by the way the paint and colors and different materials interact with each other, Ms. Szalkay has developed her own revolutionary style which she describes as Reflexionism: a process which starts with a theme, from which the artist will imagine that theme’s „philosophy of shape“, or the way the work’s form interacts with its message. The artist collects pertinent material and creates a mental concept and plan for visualization of the theme. Ms. Szalkay often paints in “Cycles:” theories on philosophical themes, exploring ideas such as chaos, cognition, entropy, hope, and love. The colors, materials and structure of her paintings are intended to evoke a sense of passion in the viewer, demanding that the viewer examine his or her own perceptions of these aspects of the mind. The artist works to dispel the myth that abstract art cannot express pathos, the element of connecting with an audience’s emotions and evoking compassion. Ms. Szalkay believes that abstract elements can inspire reflection on the deepest aspects of humanity. Indeed, her work resonates in the viewer, inspiring meditation on the association between paint and canvas, between conception and creation. Ms. Szalkay’s range of skills is amazingly broad, her work ranging from exquisite verre eglomise portraits and figurative pieces, to sculptural installations, to shockingly abstract paintings in the vein of Jackson Pollock but incorporating elements of assemblage. These abstract pieces are richly colorful, harmonious compositions of splattered paint interspersed with assemblage objects both natural and manmade. Ms. Szalkay uses music as an influence in the act of creating her artwork, thus her work reverberates with animation. Her work evokes life by representing not only an idea but the very process of painting itself, the symbiosis between thought and action. The application of paint feels both organic and deliberate, as if it sprang from the canvas in perfect rhythm. Assemblage objects ground each work in a concrete, tangible world, while entrancing, abstract compositions transport each work to the realm of the sublime. Irma received her Ph.D. in 1993 from the University of Graz, Austria, and her work is heavily influenced by her background as a university-trained philosopher. She has exhibited extensively in both the US and Europe, including</p>

Germany, Austria, Italy, New York, and Washington, D.C. From: Ruthie Tucker
Executive Director and Curator In: Art Acquisitor Magazine 7/1, 2009

“ Artist Statement

“When combined with the deeply conceptual, and spiritual nature of your work this becomes a fusion of styles and approaches that adroitly reference a range of art historical antecedents, while surpassing them at every turn” --Abraham Lubelski, publisher, New York Arts Magazine

📅 Exhibitions

As an awarded artist, Irma has exhibited in both the US and Europe, including Austria, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, New York, Alexandria, Washington, D.C., California and Florida.

📖 Art Education

While studying in Graz and in Vienna, Irma Michaela Szalkay started to pursue her artistic ambitions, employing several different techniques, including charcoal, verre églomisé, collages, installations and acrylics with mixed media. She visited museums and galleries all over the world, reviewing and studying all types of art. Irma's work is based on her background as a university-trained philosopher (Ph.D. 1993). Influenced by various schools of art, she visited museums and galleries all over the world and explored the background of artworks in terms of their philosophical and physical (material, shape, colour), mental (knowledge, information), emotional, and spiritual dimensions. To her, creating specific 'Cycles' is like writing a thesis: The expression of philosophical entities in terms of colour and shape. So the starting point of any innovative technique as developed by the artist is the study and reflection of an area of special interest (hence 'Reflexionism'), collecting pertinent material as well as music, creating a well defined mental concept in the process. The essence of this approach is to imagine a specific theme with the full spectre of its philosophical underpinnings ('Philosophy of Shape'). Abstraktion mit Pathos lies at the very heart of this technique, combining elements of philosophy, myth and harmony. The observer is supposed to communicate with the artwork in a way that allows him or her to explore deeper aspects of individual feelings, reflexions, and dreams.

🏆 Awards

> Nomination for Palm Art Award 2014 > 1st iBiennial of Temporary Art - Honorable Award 2010 > Diploma of Excellence - Award of Distinction, Artoteque.com, London 2009 > Diploma of Excellence - Honorable Award, Art Addiction Online Gallery, FEM9, London 2010 > Diploma of Excellence - Award of Distinction, Artoteque.com, London 2007 > Certificate of Excellence - Palm Award, Art Domain Gallery, Leipzig 2006 and 2008 > 6th Annual Media Juried Exhibition, Touchstone Gallery, Washington DC 2004 (Joe Shannon, Curator)

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