

ABSTRACT TEXTILE 'PAINTINGS'.

Made by Liebje Hoekendijk

Although the term 'paintings' is used, this art is made without any paint. The only material is textile. Textile that gives the impression of paint, so no flowery cloth or squares or stripes, but often abstract designs which adds to the beauty of the pictures.

The only colours that can be used are existing colours, one cannot make a colour, change or mix it, as one can with paint. It is difficult to find the exact shades one wants to use, and one needs many, many pieces of cloth to make this possible. This means that if somebody would think: 'This is a lovely technique, tomorrow I will go to the shops and buy everything I need, and I try it myself.', this will not be possible. The materials that you can buy at any given moment are far too limited. I collected cloths for 60 years (first for clothing) and I still have trouble finding the exact shades. No 'handicraft' is used, no threads or embroidery; everything is put together by a simple glue.

Art in general has three main elements: colour, composition and shape. In this case, the strong points are colour and composition. Shape is not a strong aspect as no lines can be drawn.

There are three kind of subjects:

- A Impressions of famous paintings
- B Impressions of nature
- C Free designs

The whole exercise of making these paintings is an adventure. 'Wouldn't it be nice to try...' f.i. to make something like the waterlily ponds of Monet, or the dreamy atmosphere of Turner, or the pastels of the late work by Constant, or the flamboyant colours of Krabbe?'

The same applies to photographs of scenes of nature. A dramatic picture of the eveningsky after Stonehenge; the chalk-cave-habitats of Arizona (but realised with many shades of colour), the deep ravine of the border between Turkey and Armenia, etc. The challenge is to find the colours that do represent the impression of those pictures, but it is also made with many, many different textiles to make it lively. In 'Stonehenge' not only many different kinds of red cloths are used (30), but they are different kinds within a special shade of red.

The last kind of subjects (the most) are free designs. These do not resemble anything, it is just made for the composition and the colour. 'How do you get your ideas for that?' I was often asked. I don't know, but I do know that you do have to have the idea firmly shaped in your head before you can start. If not, it will fail. The idea is to get as close to that image in your head as possible, using all those beautiful materials.

The composition is a matter of feeling. It must not 'topple over', but there is a large free area. It is nice to note that after I have finished, working only with intuition, one can analyse it and see lines and patterns.

I recently made a series of 'mountains' (C14 – C17), - not like real mountains -, one after another, and at a certain moment this subject is finished. No more new

mountains at the moment. Why? I don't know. It remains surprising and is so enjoyable to see these images grow under your hands.

In my website www.liebjehoekendijk.nl the pictures can be seen under 'Galerie'.

I started this work in 1996, when I was 65, as a compensation for the stress of my work, as manager of the production of a TV series about voluntarism. The oeuvre consists now of about 80 pieces. In 2008/2009 there were three openings of expositions in different cities.

Liebje Hoekendijk, Bussum Netherlands 4-11-2009