

Seimandi & Leprieur Gallery

Painting the Light

By Kerry Methner / VOICE

RAYS OF LIGHT, DAPPLED GLEAMS OF COLOR, and the lush shadows of foliage are layered onto the canvases of French artist Dora Vital. Her work is featured in a solo exhibition *Jardin Nocturne* at Seimandi & Leprieur Gallery curated by Jen Huang Bogan that opens on 1st Thursday, December 4th.

Gallery co-founder Fanny Seimandi shared during a preview gathering for the exhibit, "It's really good to have a solo exhibition because you discover the universe of the artist."

If that is true, Vital's universe is bursting with color.

Reflecting on the 28 paintings selected for the exhibition, Seimandi added that when she was trying to describe the work, the artist told her for focus on the light. "She wants to paint the light in the daylight, in the night, and in the dark," Seimandi continued.

Vital describes her own work as focusing "on the atmospheric qualities of light, explored through layered compositions in pastel, oil, and acrylic."

Born in Paris, Vital lives and works in the French Caribbean island of Martinique, which is rich in French and Creole culture.

The artist's bio continues, "Vital developed her visual language outside of traditional academic circuits, building a deeply personal and meditative practice. Drawing inspiration from the chiaroscuro and color harmonies of masters like William Turner and Claude Monet, she captures the subtle interplay of light and shadow, creating atmospheres both mysterious and luminous. Her work transcends traditional landscapes (there is no fixed horizon), inviting viewers into immersive worlds shaped by the ever-changing qualities of light throughout the day and night."

Curator Jen Huang Bogan also discussed her process of curation, noting, "I thought this is, in every sense, what Santa Barbara means to me, and how the Santa Barbara winter speaks to me. That's why we named this collection, *Jardin Nocturne*, which means "night garden." What I love about these pieces is that [the work] really encourages you and invites you to give yourself permission to slow down and to be indoors and to really think about what that means in Santa Barbara. So I hope you feel a little bit of that peace while you're looking at the art."

Perhaps now's the time to take a moment to wander through this garden.

Seimandi & Leprieur Gallery is located at 33 West Anapamu St. in Santa Barbara. Find out more at seimandleprieur.com



Artist Dora Vital



Serie Automnale 1 by Dora Vital



Life and the Follies 2 by Dora Vital



Nocture Garden 1 to 3 by Dora Vital