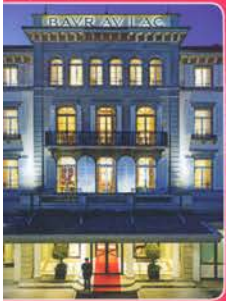


2014

VIEWS

THE BAUR AU LAC MAGAZINE



EXPRESSION OF A LIFESTYLE

MARRAKECH A Moroccan pleasure hunt

SCENE FROM THE INSIDE Getting personal with modern art

THE CHOSEN FEW New Leading Hotels of the World

NATURE ENHANCED Your own personal paradise in Vietnam

GOODWOOD REVIVAL Racing the way it used to be

RICH PICKINGS Shopping in Zurich



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTOPHER GALLO PHOTO

SHARON LOUDEN

Although Sharon Loudon is my newest friend in the art world, I hold her tenderly in my heart as we were introduced by both of our best friends. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on May 15, 1964, Loudon is the oldest of four daughters. Her education began at Olney Elementary Public School in Washington, D.C., where the family had moved when she was eight years old. Her high school diploma came from Sherwood High School in Sandy Spring, Maryland, where she learned from Mary Bloom and consistently garnered top awards. She received her bachelor of fine arts degree in 1988 from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she studied with Dan Gusting and Susanna Coffey. She received Yale's Schickle-Collingwood Prize in 1990, and went on to receive her master of fine arts degree from Yale School of Art in 1991. Her mentors at Yale were people of the caliber of Mel Bochner, Andrea Forge and Frances Bath, to name but a few.

Having studied figurative painting at the SAIC, her Yale experience later nudged Loudon's work into a merger with abstraction, eventually laying a solid foundation for her current work using whimsical, fantasy-like lines. Her drawings, paintings and installations revolve around linear abstractions which she has termed «anthropomorphic individuals». Although her simple metal installations are clearly abstract in nature and have few stories to tell, they appear almost like dancing human tentacles - an impression that has led Loudon to be called the Robert Ryman of the 21st century.

Louden's installation Merge opened at the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis, Minnesota in October 2011. Art in America described this energetic piece as perhaps Sharon Loudon's best work to date. Her works are also on display in the permanent collections of the Neuberger Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Arkansas Art Center, Yale University Art Gallery, the Weatherspoon Art Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She has received a grant from the Elizabeth Foundation and participated in residences at Tamarind Institute, Urban Glass and Art Omi.



PHOTO CREDIT: VINSON VALEGA

Aside from the visual arts, Sharon Loudon also edited the book *Living and Sustaining a Creative Life: Essays by 40 Working Artists*. At the time of writing, she was touring various states of the USA to promote it, accompanied and supported by a number of artists along the way. Since 1991, Loudon has taught studio and professional practice classes to students of all levels in colleges and universities throughout the USA. For the past ten years, she has also run workshops - which she aptly calls *Glow Town* - in museums and schools. Since 2010, Loudon has moderated the Professional Practice Lecture Series at the New York Academy of Arts. In this context, she has interviewed personalities such as Carter Foster from the Whitney Museum, Benjamin Genocchio from Artinfo.com, my dear friend Adam Sheffer, a partner at Cheim & Read Gallery, and Anne Pasternak, a director at Creative Time. As if that were not enough, Sharon Loudon sits on the Board of Seed Space and is a founding member of the Arts Advisory Council for the New York Academy of Art.

Sharon, thanks so much for letting me get to know you. Let's talk again when I next visit the Big Apple!