

The Art of Love Exhibition of Melinda Camber Porter's Art, Books and Film (1986 to 1996)

Melinda Camber Porter *Art of Love Exhibition* Venue
Alliance Francaise de San Francisco
June 9 - August 31, 1994

The French Cultural Services of New York initiated and sponsored in part the *Art of Love Exhibition and Tour* of Melinda Camber Porter's art, books and film in the USA.

Through Parisian Eyes by Melinda Camber Porter was important to the English-speaking America, as way to introduce important French cultural leaders and their ideas. With the success of Melinda Camber Porter's book and art reception at the French New York Cultural Center, the Director of the Center, Philippe Reliquet, asked other French Cultural offices and Alliance Francaise centers around America to consider holding similar *Through Parisian Eyes* book parties and art exhibitions with Melinda Camber Porter. Thus, The Art of Love Exhibition of Art, Books and Film of Melinda Camber Porter was born.

Melinda Camber Porter's *Through Parisian Eyes* along with twenty-two paintings of her paintings traveled around America from 1993 through 1996. The French Cultural Services hired, documentary filmmaker Michael Camerini, who produced a film on Melinda Camber Porter's art, journalism and love of French Culture from her time in Paris and entitled, *The Art of Love*, which was shown on over 140 USA Public Television stations during the four years of the Art of Love Exhibition.

The result was Melinda Camber Porter's *Through Parisian Eyes* and the *Art of Love Tour* went to the following venues in America: New York French Cultural Center (1993); The French Boston Library (1994); Chicago Alliance Francaise (1994); Houston Alliance Francaise (1994); San Francisco Alliance Francaise (1994); Washington DC French Embassy (1994); New Orleans Alliance Francaise (1995); Hartford Alliance Francaise and The West Hartford art League (1995); Miami Alliance Francaise (1995); Sioux Falls, South Dakota Civic Art Center (1996); Golden, Colorado Foothills Art Center (1996); Casper, Wyoming Nicolaysen Art Museum (1996); and started with Melinda Camber Porter's *Through Parisian Eyes* lecture at La Maison Francaise, New York University (1986).



Alliance Française de San Francisco

JUNE 1994

Works of Melinda
Camber Porter—
Painter, Poet,
Journalist—on
Show at Alliance
Française



"The great meltdown of modern sexual anarchy is the real subject of Melinda Camber Porter's work. Nevertheless she has some hope for a post-anarchic future. Even now, she seems to say, love is possible. A kind of love, perhaps. Some kind of love. Readers will understand, without coaching, what she means." - Saul Bellow

Self Portrait, Watercolor on Paper, 20" x 24", 1984. From *The Art of Love, Love Poems and Paintings* by Melinda Camber Porter

In June 1994, the Alliance Française de San Francisco honors Melinda Camber Porter--painter, poet and journalist--with an exhibit of her paintings entitled "The Art of Love." The show will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 9 and run through the end of August at the Alliance Française Galerie. The exhibition follows the publication of Ms. Porter's most recent book, *The Art of Love*, a selection of 60 love poems illustrated by the artist's painting and the re-issuing of *Through Parisian Eyes*, a collection of interviews with French cultural luminaries.

Melinda Camber Porter is a woman of remarkable versatility: painter, poet and journalist, she is also a playwright, lyricist and novelist. British born and educated at Oxford, she has been for many years Cultural Correspondent for *The Times* of London, based first in Paris and now in New York. Her poetry and journalism have appeared in a wide variety of publications internationally, including *The New Statesman*, *The Observer*, *The Times Library Supplement*, *Le Monde* and *The Partisan Review*. She has also written the book for the musical *Night Angel*, the play *Boat Child* and several novels including the just completed *Badlands*.

Melinda Camber Porter's paintings explore the same ideas that she writes about in her poetry, plays, and novels, providing a visual medium to augment the written word and to express shapes and forms that expand the ideas and provide nuance.

Inspired by the early 20th century French painters whom she studied in the museums and galleries of Paris where she lived during the 1970s and 1980s, Camber Porter uses vivid colors and impressionistic strokes to explore ambitious themes. Primarily auto-

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ART

A one-woman exhibition, "The Art of Love: The Paintings

and Writings of Melinda Camber Porter," is on view at L'Alliance Francaise of San Francisco through Aug. 31. The Oxford-educated poet, painter, journalist, playwright and lyricist shapes what Saul Bellow calls "the great meltdown of modern sexual anarchy." The 23 paintings, which portray dreamlike visions and intergenerational emotions, include seven large oils on canvas and 16 watercolors. Information: (415) 775-7755.

"For those passionate about French arts and culture, Melinda Camber Porter's *Through Parisian Eyes* is like a daylong trip to the candy store. It is a collection of essays and interviews with some of the most prominent Parisian writers, philosophers, directors and actors - François Truffaut, Costa-Gavras, Jean Anouilh, Eugène Ionesco, Alain Robbe-Grillet, Louis Malle, Marguerite Duras, Bertrand Tavernier, Breyton Breytenbach, Françoise Sagan, Yves Montand and Jean-Paul Sartre are all included. Melinda Camber Porter's eclectic gathering covers topics that include French xenophobia, politics, feminism, creativity, intellectualism, structuralism, imagination and the arts, providing an area of interest for almost every palate. "Through Parisian Eyes" is a well-rounded, intelligent look at the contemporary Parisian spirit."

San Francisco Chronicle
Reviewed by Steven Barclay,
San Francisco writer,

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American venues:

USA Public Television Stations, the film, *The Art of Love* (1993-1996)

New York French Cultural Center (1993)

The French Boston Library and Cultural Center (1994)

Chicago Alliance Francaise (1994)

Houston Alliance Francaise (1994)

San Francisco Alliance Francaise (1994)

Washington DC French Embassy (1994)

New Orleans Alliance Francaise (1995)

Hartford Alliance Francaise and The West Hartford art League (1995)

Miami Alliance Francaise (1995)

Sioux Falls, South Dakota Civic Art Center (1996)

Golden, Colorado Foothills Art Center (1996)

Casper, Wyoming Nicolaysen Art Museum (1996).

La Maison Francaise, New York University, Lecture (1986)

www.MelindaCamberPorter.com

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melinda_Camber_Porter

Melinda Camber Porter's YouTube Channel Home:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiflCaF2qpHh8uQgffSXLdQ>