ARTCENTRIC by ELISA TURNER

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Miami Art Gallery Presents Linda Kohen Solo Show

Recently my current publisher Liana Perez and I paid a visit to an exquisite show at The Americas Collection in Coral Gables--which, as those of us living here know, is basically part of Greater Miami.

This solo show is part of an impressive international effort to highlight the work of Linda Kohen--a remarkably talented painter I did not know about at all! The show will be on view through most or all of April at The Americas Collection, 214 Andalusia Avenue, Coral Gables. Phone is 305-446-5578 or see http://www.americascollection.com/

As we chatted with the gallery's art director Velia Larcinese, I learned that there may still be some paintings on view in May. I am for sure hoping that is the case because I would very much like to consider the art of Linda Kohen for my May Critic's Choice for http://www.artcircuits.com/ We talked about how the radiantly minimalist still life paintings by Kohen, who was born in Italy and has lived and worked in Uruguay for years, recall the quietly elegant paintings of Italian painter Giorgio Morandi (1890-1964). You can also see echoes of Morandi in some of her more figurative paintings from the 1980s. They often verge on abstraction in intriguing ways.

This show at The Americas Collection is part of a series taking place this spring at galleries in Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, and Montevideo. It is very exciting that Miami is on the map for this group of exhibitions highlighting an accomplished Latin American artist who should be far better known than she is, despite all her years of hard work. I understand from a thoughtful essay by Carlos M. Luis in a gallery publication that Linda Kohen's artistic career spans 60 years.

We also spoke about how Kohen's situation somewhat recalls that of Carmen Herrera, who did not receive substantial, international recognition as an artist until late in life.

This conversation put me in the frame of mind to recall the time I reviewed a truly eye-opening exhibit of paintings by Carmen Herrera for The Miami Herald in November 2005, so that will be the focus of my blog post this week.

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ABOUT ME

ELISA TURNER

Elisa Turner has been called “Miami’s art critic.” Probably a lot of other things too, but we won’t go there. She was an art critic for The Miami Herald when it was still owned by Knight Ridder, which no longer exists. Now that her Herald byline no longer exists either, this award-winning journalist is for sure not shutting up. She is the Miami correspondent for the award-winning ARTnews magazine based in New York and the Artcentric columnist for Art Circuits, Miami’s excellent print and online guide to the visual arts. Check it out at www.artcircuits.com Her favorite artists? WAY TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION! International assignments for the Knight Ridder Miami Herald? Havana, Venice, Basel (Switzerland, of course), and Haiti. Favorite cocktail? White chocolate martini. Gourmet dish she would love to see on a menu? Chicken Alaska. Personal details? Over 30 years ago she married her college sweetheart, who is half-Cuban and Miami-born. Together they raised two wonderful young adults. She is proud to teach subject-verb agreement , and other essentials to writing well, at Miami Dade College, because we all need to know how to make our subjects and verbs agree!

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