

Anita Eneroth - „HOMMAGE Á TEXTILIA” - Röhsska Museet - 30 januari 2011

I wish you, dear Zontians, if you have a chance to travel this winter to Gothenburg and enjoy the exhibition „HOMMAGE Á TEXTILIA” which is on display at the Röhsska Museet. There is still time, because the show opened on 11 September 2010 is on view until 30 January 2011. This textile art exhibition including art pieces from 46 artists is devoted to Anita Eneroth and her „child” TEXTILIA, which has played an incredible important role in the cultural life scene of Gothenburg for thirty years and which artists and public will long for. TEXTILIA excelled in the largest collection of textile art after the Röhsska Museet, it continuously created regular exhibitions in the Gallery, organized displays in different interiors in Sweden and also abroad, promoted textile art and artist creative career in official institutions and cared for art lovers. More than 400 artists have been involved in the activities of TEXTILIA through these years and I am sure all of them are sincerely thankful for Anita’s efforts. I can feel it in some textile works at the exhibition, like Ulrika Berge’s „Hypertrofi” or Eva Rodenius’ „Roses”.

You deserve it, Anita! All your devotion, life and work deserves it and I am really happy that the Röhsska Museet has evaluated your efforts and has come up with this initiative of the exhibition „HOMMAGE Á TEXTILIA”.

Actually „HOMMAGE Á TEXTILIA” is equivalent to HOMMAGE Á ANITA, because no one else, but Anita Eneroth – a woman with enormous energy, experience, and belief in what she does, with good will, fantastic taste and love for art and artists is the heart of TEXTILIA. She has generated her Gallery - this unique place in the art milieu of Gothenburg – with her house wide open! Supporting artists and textile art development in general and truly working in favour of her idea for thirty years! This is a very long time, the timeline for a generation. Therefore I wish I could have been present at the Röhsska’s opening of the „HOMMAGE Á TEXTILIA” exhibition to express my dedication, to say my appreciation speech to Anita, but unfortunately I could not manage, because Riga is on the other side of the Baltic Sea.

May this be my devotion to you, Anita!!! To you, the devoted Zontian of Gothenburg Zonta Club II!

I met Anita in the mid 1990ies, when I was writing my Master’s thesis on Nordic Textile Art. I still remember my first meeting with Anita in Gothenburg – the beautiful, impressive, tall, and intelligent woman with elegant appearance! A devoted Zontian, who agreed to open her TEXTILIA for me and to introduce me with her collection of almost three hundred art tapestries. For me this was a great chance, great possibility to meet many contemporary Swedish, also some Danish artist names and to be acquainted with their careers. It was not merely seeing art pieces of TEXTILIA collection, Anita took me also to several interiors she was organizing exhibitions at and shared with me the knowledge about tapestries in official interiors of Gothenburg. She possesses the genuine Zonta qualities setting example: always friendly, willing to help, always open to share opinion, always positive.

A real, true friend – this is what Anita Eneroth has been to me through the years. I really value what Anita does. There was a chance when she was invited to Riga as a speaker at the ETN Conference in 2001 where Anita introduced the international textile artist family with her experience in TEXTILIA. In my imagination I still recall her walking through the Zvārtava palace park in her typical long, winding in the warm breeze dress and in her unique, so characteristic hairstyle. With all her fantastically chosen jewellery! This was a time when the Declaration about regular European Riga Textile and Fibre Art Triennials „Tradition and Innovation” was accepted and signed by all the Conference participants, and it was written in her calligraphic handwriting! This summer we have organized already the 4th Triennial with the theme GLOBAL INTRIGUE II. It means - this tradition, started somehow also by Anita is living on.

Unforgettable was my experience during the Zonta International Convention in Gothenburg in 2002, when Anita not only opened for me and Inta (both from Riga Zonta Club) her fantastic, unforgettable vital-in-colours home with the dominating red and black (some interior details being green or violet), but also opened her house for the International Zonta family and introduced it with the Midsummer Festival

traditions in Sweden. I really do hope all Zontians who were there from different parts of the world still remember that day like I do.

Her enthusiasm helped also Latvian art to cross the borders and to be shown in Gothenburg, because she was the main initiator for Egils Rozenberg's one man show „Living by the Sea” in Kunstepidemin in 2002.

Her creativeness and passion has helped more than four hundred contemporary artists from Sweden, Nordic area and also Baltic countries to be exhibited in TEXTILIA during these years, what means - TEXTILIA activities could be compared in their significance to a Museum's activities.

Thank you, Anita, for all those wonderful moments, when you and Lennart have welcomed me in your house, for all your hospitality and unforgettable extraordinary table designs for receptions, which has also been a real lesson to learn. Many lessons given by a unique personality - a design artist herself! I wish I could see among all the art pieces at the Röhsska also your own designs and I would love to hear more your own story of TEXTILIA... and your own creative career, but it could be a theme for another exhibition - HOMMAGE Á ANITA.

Dear Zontians of Gothenburg Zonta clubs: I do hope you have already visited this exhibition, but in case you have not, please do it! Because it is HOMMAGE Á ANITA, HOMMAGE Á ZONTA!

With love,
Art Critic
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