

To the work of Sissa Micheli:

Sissa Micheli masters the subtlety and the suggestiveness of story-telling. Hers are poetic etudes of elemental passion, everyday torments, intimate and rare moments of striking emotional intensity. Micheli's is a complex world of a strong cinematic quality where reality and fiction are accomplices in constructing a narrative structure of psychological drama. Sometimes autobiographical, sometimes based upon someone else's experience as reported in a newspaper, these narratives of uncomfortable intimacy are autonomous fragments on a life on the edge of nervous breakdown, threatened by an often tragic unexpected event, precarious in its unfolding as a series of traumas, from childhood through formative years and maturity down to perils of a soon to come old-age. In a gentle, hardly visible process of sublimation, Micheli iconises matrixes of basic human relationships, thus providing the viewer with a dictionary of "received emotions" that while universalised retain their sincerity and amazingly powerful authenticity. Her work is both, voyeuristic and vivisectional-like: here, the author as simultaneously the subject and the object of a private study and a sociological analysis performs a self in construction, between an innocence and experience, dream and awakening, excess and void, in a masquerade of carnivalesque identity.

Adam Budak, curator of the Kunsthaus Graz in: waking doubting rolling shining and musing, improvisation of a faun, or on precarious life. 8th edition of the annual curatorial project at the Academy of fine Art in Vienna 2006.