

ALETA MICHALETOS



'Art has been my lifelong passion.... and whilst creating, I reach the blissful state of 'flow'..... As I tenderly apply paint to canvas, paper or board, I am the lover caressing her beloved. The process is not only a physical or sensual act, it is also an emotional and cerebral act of love and I am fully engaged during the ritual of the creative process. Because of this, I prefer my privacy and work in solitude.'

Aleta Michaletos is an international award winning artist based in Pretoria. She is an established and respected voice in contemporary South African Art.

She received her B.A.F.A. from the University of Pretoria in 1974 and has acted as guest lecturer at UP and The Open Window Art Academy. She has served on numerous Art related committees. Her work is housed in International and local Museums, Corporate collections and Embassies as well as a host of private collections. She has been profiled and interviewed extensively on local and International television, as well as in the media. She is the recipient of numerous Awards.

Aleta loves sharing the 'process' and deeply values personal interaction. Private collectors, connoisseurs, students and laymen can view her artistic production by appointment or invitation. In the privacy of her light-drenched 'Studio Illuminare' where she weaves her magic, or in her enchanting gallery, 'Galleries Petites', she liberally shares the depth and diversity of her multifaceted oeuvre, as well as the insightful and illuminating anecdotes and wealth of experience, of her life's fruitful journey.

She has produced 24 Solo exhibitions and participated in more than 180 selected group shows. She has held a number of ambitious retrospective exhibitions in local, as well as international Museums. In 1991 she had a 3 month long, prestigious retrospective (invited), at the Karl Hover Museum, Schloss Ettlingen, Germany. In 1994, she received the coveted United Nations Art & Philatelic Award in NY, for her symbolic portrait of Nelson Mandela, 'Rebirth' and consequently joined ranks with previous contributors such as Vasarely, Dali, Miro, Chagall, Calder and others.

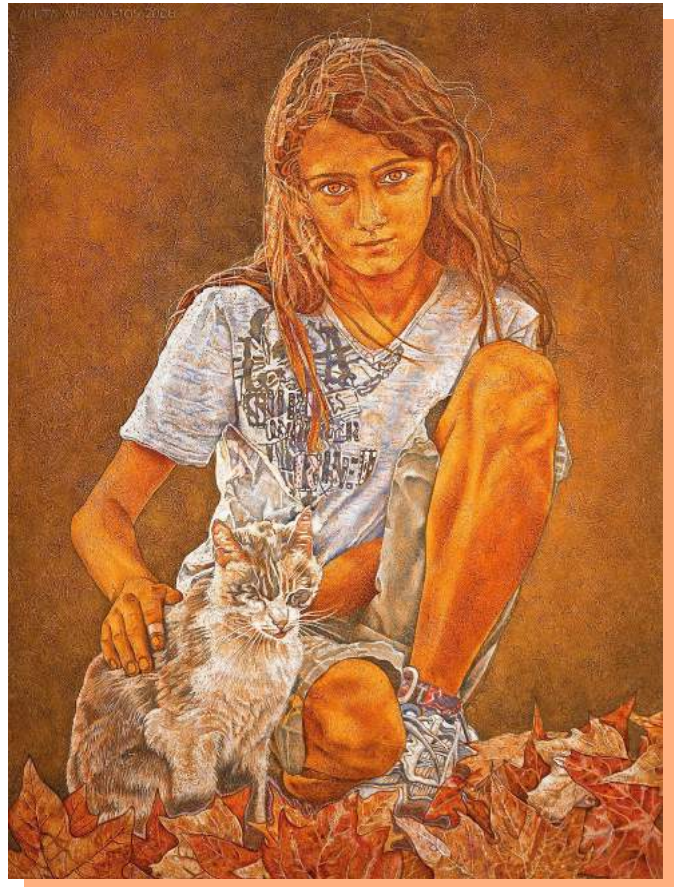
She expertly employs a wide stylistic and technical arsenal, to support her broad and ambitious range of content and imagery. She patiently transforms her vision into a tangible work of art as she unlocks potential from the most humble object or ideas.

Her quest, is to find meaningful and unique answers to each successive question that life and her art demand of her. She comfortably moves between various artistic disciplines and although her reflective and philosophical thoughts, as well as her art-making process and diverse techniques are precise, complex and varied, they are all subtly but skilfully interconnected. Over the past 40 years several delicate golden threads have been subliminally woven through each seemingly unrelated subject, thoroughly connecting them into a powerful artistic statement.

Recurring elements reverberate between pictures and integrate the production of a fascinating and complex body of work in multiple mediums. Because of this working method, it stands to reason that a series always remains open-ended. For this reason, she groups her work by theme or technique, rather than a seemingly chaotic 'chrono-illogical' arrangement.

Her oeuvre is enriched by paradox and when viewing the span of her life's work, the subtle balancing of opposites seems to be the central theme. Whether textured/smooth, ordered/chaotic, intellectual or playful, the list is endless. The diversity of her work is vital to its comprehensive significance.

She is acutely aware of her surroundings and she responds intuitively to the contradicting energies that underpin the dynamics of global and South African politics. Her response to a society fraught with violence and crime is to create works that not only embody exceptional beauty and radiate calm but also the realization of monumental conceptual projects, that are able to promote harmony, peace and the eventual triumph of the human Spirit. "*We are all lying in the gutter but some of us are looking to the stars*"- Oscar Wilde. She remains deeply committed to an art that accelerates positive social transformation (Precious Circle 1989-1994) whilst focusing on the harmonious reconciliation of opposing forces ('Rebirth', 1994).



She expands her horizons through the physical adventure of frequent travel and the stimulus of expansive reading, intellectual company and the regular enrolment in related courses and seminars. She is passionate about deepening her understanding of the complexities of life

and her rich experience and accumulated wisdom, is expressed in meaningful and visually intelligent works, that are deeply saturated with metaphor. She thoroughly researches that which interests her or enriches her art, as she immerses herself in her subject. All of this is brought into full play, when she is able to generously share her knowledge and ideas through her published articles, mentoring, lecturing, inspirational talks and personal blog. Locally and internationally she is synonymous with and loved for her enthusiasm and gentle inspiring ways.

Her daily walks, have had a gradual, yet dramatic impact on her work, resulting in a major paradigm shift in her art practice. Her love of Nature and her heightened awareness of the evolving processes and subtlety of textures and hues as well as the impermanence and continuous transformation of life, have infiltrated into the technique and subject matter of her paintings. Although she identifies with the primitive SOURCE of Creation, she is able to express her feelings in sophisticated paintings in which the chaotic vibrancy of life is patiently transformed into a structured order.

'My earlier works reflect the attitude of an artist delivering an intellectual and controlled 'monologue', as I subjected my will onto the surface. Now, my focus has shifted to the unpredictable rewards that result from the sacred dialogue which I have with the intuitively textured or patterned surface that I work on. My life's work has, in its expressive and vibrant totality, become a metaphor for the abundance, diversity and endless permutations of creative life.'

Alchemy fascinates her, as she has always managed to transform very little, into sheer abundance. She prefers to 'add value' to that which is humble or ordinary, transmuting it into that which is extra-ordinary or precious. ('Precious Circle'). Her most ambitious collector to date has recently awarded her with yet another monumental 2 year art project, for his Art Museum. Now her interest in Alchemy can at last be fully developed and explored.

Michaletos has an open and inquisitive mind and her keen awareness and sensitivity, enables her to find hidden beauty everywhere. In response, she creates individual, jewel-like pieces, which are coveted by collectors who are on the lookout for a rare 'pièce unique'.

Phone: +27 (0)12 3616777

Cell: +27 (0)83 5542027

e-mail: aleta@aletamichaletos.com

website: www.aletamichaletos.com

blog: <http://aletamichaletos.blogspot.co.za>

