Arts

at The Luxembourg House

ARTS

The Consul General of Luxembourg
Mr. François Knaff & Mrs. Carine Knaff-Feipel

cordially invite you to the opening of

"Textures of Fire"

Photo by Jenny Kao

"Turlututue is fishing perls of love", 2006
Tempera on Cotton & Paper, 41

by

Roseline Koener

on

Tuesday, April 21, 2009
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Luxembourg House
17 Beekman Place
(50th Street and The East River)
New York, NY 10022

RSVP by April 17, 2009
Tel: (212) 888-6664 – newyork.cg@mae.etat.lu

"Textures of Fire"

by Roseline Koener

April 21, 2009 - June 11, 2009
(by appointment only, tel: (212) 888-6664)

"To paint is a way to free sources of fire from the wildest, archaic parts of my heart and let them sing through materials—colour's vibrancies, textures and structures." Roseline Koener

About the Exhibit

First featured at the Luxembourg House during the 2003 holiday season, Roseline Koener returns to the Consulate General of Luxembourg for an encore exhibition of her paintings. **"Textures of Fire"** showcases the artist's award-winning, simplistic interplay of intense colors and everyday materials, influenced by the rich culture and lively pulse of Africa.

Photo by Jenny Kao

"Prayers of Light", I, 2007/08
Tempura on Cotton & Ink on Paper, 30

Koener credits the connections between her "woman-painter and free creative child" for the surge of "creative fire bursting with joyous, unexpected colors and independent, carefree rhythms" that signify her work. Preferring textured materials such as thick Nepalese paper or cotton swathes as canvases, she employs collage to enhance her creations: faded household linens, pillowcases, dish towels, cotton sheeting, and lace are transformed in her hands. "These materials are great for showing color through, as I mix pure pigment with egg white, a tempera technique which allows the color to radiate outward like the burning transparent light through a stained glass window," the artist says.

Creating a painting is a process of discovery for Koener: "Taken by the fire of creation, I go, come, and come back again on the entire surface to reinvent on it new harmonies, to intensify its values," she says. "To revive areas which are not lively enough, I cut up pieces of pure color and place them for emphasis…The combinations seem infinite, but I almost always find the precise exactness of one and one alone: that one which provokes the most fire…Then, I have but one desire: to share this fire, and to offer its fruit to those who feel the invitation to participate."

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"Concerning her use of color, Ms. Koener's extraordinary talent yields to a sensation of beautiful complimentary. Her art fuses feelings of joy and innocence with intense, fiery feeling and intellect with emotional resonance."

- Willo Doe, Art Critic, New York

at The Luxembourg House
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About the Artist

Born in Liège, Belgium to a family of Luxembourgers and raised in Luxembourg, Koener has a proud artistic heritage: her grandfather was a collector, and her mother was a painter. She began painting at a young age, but later turned to the study of art history and archeology: first at the *École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Visuels et d'Architecture de la Chambre* in Brussels, then receiving a master's degree with honors from the *Université Libre de Bruxelles*, Belgium.

Creativity stymied, she returned to the study of painting at *New York Studio School* in New York, the *Art Institute* in San Francisco, and the *National College of Art* in Dublin. Many stays in Africa two decades ago marked a transformative moment in her early black-and-white work.

Since 1984, Koener's paintings have been shown in Belgium, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Mexico and France, as well as in the United States in Chicago, Los Angeles, the Hamptons, and three Manhattan locales. It has been featured in print internationally.

The artist moved to the United States in 1999, residing in Westhampton, Long Island, where she opened her own gallery *"Roseline Koener Art Gallery"*. Until four years ago, the gallery was offering a full repertoire of contemporary art in a wide range of diverse and combined media showcasing her paintings as well as the work of other international artists. Since 2005, Koener started workshops in the gallery and more recently in a loft in Harlem. In the near future, the currently "dormant" gallery renamed *L'Atelier* will serve to showcase the creations of her workshops' participants.

Koener received the *National Association of Women Artists' Martha Moore Memorial Award* at its 2001 Annual Exhibition. In addition to her art career, she is a licensed growth educator with the PRH Institute (Personality & Human Relations), a non-profit, international school for adult development.

When **"Textures of Fire"** concludes, Koener's work will be on exhibit at Manhattan's *Walter Wickiser Gallery.*

L'Atelier Retreat Center (Westhampton)
L'Atelier Retreat Center (Harlem)
Tel: (631) 288-6721
www.roseline-koener.com
www.latelier-retreatcenter.com

The Luxembourg House

Designed by the architect Harold Sterner in 1929 for the former Secretary of Defense, Mr. James Forrestal, 17 Beekman Place was home to the great American composer Irving Berlin and his family from 1947 until his death in 1989 at the age of 101. In 1990, the five-story town house was acquired by the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and subsequently renovated to house the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations, the Consulate General of Luxembourg, the Luxembourg Board of Economic Development and the Luxembourg Tourist Office.