

Isabel Cristina López Hamze participated in TRANSIT 9 festival at Odin Teatret, Holstebro, 12. - 23. June 2019. The festival's theme was *Hope in Action. Theatre – Women – Will*. She wrote the following text on Dorthe Kærgaard's exhibition in the theatre's foyer in concomitance with the festival.

Dorthe Kærgaard's imaginings

Dorthe Kærgaard's hands are connected with her heart. Perhaps that is why her paintings have accompanied the women of TRANSIT since the beginning. The artist's paintings are displayed on the walls of the Foyer and that place of transit becomes a space to stop and look, think, feel. Anyone who passes in front of the colours and shapes can discover wonders on the canvasses.

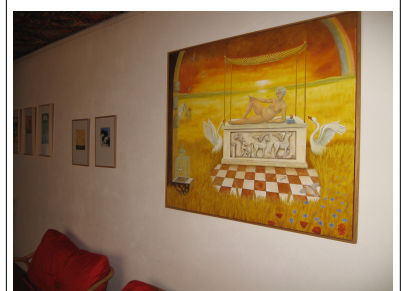
The paintings show the artist's connection to different cultures. You can read, through her works, the subtle flirting with mythical stories such as Adam and Eve, where the wise owl carries the snake in its beak. This is a bold way of reinventing the myth, starting from the power of women who want to know and understand the world.

Dorthe Kærgaard creates images from ancestral themes and gives them new nuances with her, at the same time, delicate and firm strokes. In her paintings we can see the sensuality of female bodies, distant from usual beauty canons and closer to authentic beauty. The beauty of these bodies is in their relationship with nature, in their symbolic interaction with birds and fish, with sky and sea, with bubbles and flowers.

There are some images hanging on the wall that will stay with me always: an arabesque of bodies rising from the sea, women who try to fly without wings and manage to climb by making a human pyramid. The mermaids and the peace of the sea is interrupted when a bird enters the water and takes three fish in its beak. Women who balance over the world, birds and many bare feet who walk fearlessly on the waves and on the land.

All the images that I take from Dorthe Kærgaard are in movement, because she has the gift giving life to her paintings. Her women move, sing, dance, travel from the painting to the eyes of those who stop to look at them.

This is why I say that Dorthe Kærgaard's hands are connected with her heart. The hands that make, build and help others get up while the heart dictates colours and emotions. Only in this way is *hope in action* possible.



ISABEL CRISTINA LÓPEZ HAMZE (Cuba) is a scholar, film and television scriptwriter, and a theatre critic, born in 1988. Bachelor in Theatre Arts and Master in Art Teaching, she works as a professor of Theatre History at La Havana University of the Arts. Her articles, essays and chronicles have been published in several specialised magazines such as *Tablas*, *Conjunto*, *El Caimán Barbudo* and *La Jiribilla*. Isabel is researching female dramaturgy by young Cubans. She is currently working on her PhD thesis in Arts. Her work as a theatrologist was recognised with the Plate Avellaneda 2018 delivered at the National Theatre Festival of Camagüey.