

(The magazine 'Kultur in Hamburg' printed the following article in 2006)

Iris Rousseau and Eduard van Leeuwen:

Art as everyday life

When meeting Iris Rousseau and Eduard van Leeuwen, one feels that one has already known this pair for a long time – although both appear as two opposite individuals, together they seem to form a complete circle. One is immediately drawn under their spell by an all-encompassing force. Yet it is not a force which we know as one of destruction, but one of a different kind; one which is actually pure energy: a regenerating force that results out of the communication of two interacting human beings, individuals that come to terms with themselves, who argue with their counterpart, which in turn forms the reflection of their own self. This is where the circle is completed.

The work of the two artists cannot be appreciated, much less understood, without these two individuals who created it. It is not their intention to copy reality and to replicate it as they perceive it, but to intensify the impressions of nature and let them develop in a more exacting, more accurate, more beautiful, or more marvellous way.

Iris Rousseau and Eduard van Leeuwen have an idea of life which is child-like; they have an idea of breathing, how nature is, what it tastes like, what it feels like, how life is given and taken away; inevitably, again and again, never ending. Like children, their interest means: creativity, desire, energy, curiosity. Curiosity: Both travelled across many countries, lived and worked there. Energy: This was required to work through many setbacks, disappointments, and experienced hopelessness. Desire: That is to say, life. Creativity: To create and to communicate.

Interest: In the world, but also in others.

The very extensive work of the two wants to show us these thoughts, these feelings, these ideas that are insatiable love for each other and to the things around them, and the favour to express this; resting in itself: the old woman; the awareness of life in the tango, in the frozen, but at closer observation swaying pair; the tenderness of a young girl, the innocence of playing children - a virtual reality - which is communicated to us by their content and the ability of the two artists.

Works of the two artists were shown in numerous exhibitions and presentations in Brussels, Budapest, Duesseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, Nyon (Switzerland), Paris, on Sylt, Therean, Vienna and, naturally, in the studio of the artists in Hoopte.

Various works of art have been purchased for public areas, e.g. "Mutter und Kind" (Mother and Child) for the chapel of the General Hospital in Altona, "Die lesende Großmutter mit Enkel" (Reading Grandmother with Grandchild) for a place in front of the old-age home in Tostedt. Numerous works are to be found in private collections and a variety of busts of prominent personalities from public life have been commissioned in recent years.