

For Caroline Rosso Cicogna, Art is Life and Life is an Art. At seventy-five, she can afford to take a bird's eye view on her long life, a cosmopolitan one rich in events, travels, encounters, emotions and friendships, where borders have always been a kind of landmark. For her, they offer an opportunity to cross-over to the other side and to push one's limits further until borders, inner and outer, disappear completely in a carefully guarded quest for universality.

Born in 1947 in a border region of Belgium to an American father and a Belgian mother, she has lived in an international and multilingual context since her early childhood.

After graduating from the University of Leuven in 1969, she began her career as a conference interpreter in London and continued it a few years later in Vienna, Austria, as a permanent official at the International Atomic Energy Agency. This was to be a time of fabulous missions all over the world, in the service of this prestigious institution which deals exclusively with the peaceful uses of atomic energy, nuclear safety and security issues.

After her marriage in 1978 to an Italian diplomat from Trieste, in a border region of Italy, she worked for over thirty years as a freelance interpreter for the United Nations and other international Organisations.

Brussels, London and Vienna were followed by New Delhi, where her husband was posted at the Italian Embassy for five and a half years, from 1979 to 1985. Her international experience, already open to intercultural, interethnic and interfaith dialogue, acquired a more universal dimension at the side of authentic Yoga masters during privileged encounters in some of the emblematic places of Hindu spirituality where she deepened her experience of this age-old philosophy of life...

On her return to Italy, in addition to her diplomatic duties at her husband's side, she continued as a conference interpreter while pursuing her yogic path, with varying degrees of intensity and always travelling in Europe and to India and Japan.

At the end of the 1980s, together with Yogacharya Janakiraman, she founded the International Yoga Aditya Association in Trieste, where her husband contributed to create two international organisations in the service of science and technology, the ICGEB (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology) and the ICS (International Centre for Science).

Author of various articles and essays, she wrote THE SOLAR WAY, a reading of the Bhagavad Gita and co-authored SOLAR YOGA, an illustrated practical guide with Janakiraman. This book, published in eight editions (all out of print)

and in five languages, was an international success in the 1990s.

In 2003, she decided to put an end to her career as an interpreter and to the constant travelling it entailed in order to give priority to her inner quest and to give it an artistic expression. Up to this day, she still leads a life dedicated to art and spirituality, far from the buzzing European capitals, in Nice and Trieste, two border cities with a strong cosmopolitan imprint.

During this period, she acquired her painting skills in studios with established artists in France and Italy or learning the art of iconography and miniature painting during her retreats in monasteries. Thanks to a rigorous training with masters in the most authentic tradition of these arts, she produced a wide range of works that evoke the great themes of the Christian tradition, thus acquiring an artistic maturity that allows her to express her spiritual quest through this sacred art.

In 2015, after participating in group exhibitions in France and Italy, she held her first solo exhibition in Trieste and published "SPIRALS of LIFE", a trilingual illustrated anthology of her works (French-Italian-English) in which she pays tribute to her masters.

Caroline Rosso Cicogna describes this act of painting according to very ancient canons as a true meditation in movement which evokes through forms and colours a feeling that words cannot express. For her, this freedom guided by tradition and prayer constitutes a return to the source of the creative act which gives rise to a spontaneous joy in the silence of the heart. She also points out that it is the mystical dimension of the icon and its universal character that fascinate her most.

However, an important turning point came in 2018 when the artist, who has already "written" about a hundred icons and painted more than fifty illuminations, felt the need to express her feelings in a more abstract idiom with an exploration of mixed techniques. According to the Indian saying "When the student is ready, the Master appears", she met an artist who is a master at this sacred abstract art and who accepted her in his studio in Tuscany. Since then, combining tradition with abstraction and using noble materials such as gold and real pigments or poorer ones such as acrylic and polystyrene, Caroline Rosso Cicogna has succeeded in creating an eminently personal and original style in which the Ancient and the Contemporary echo each other in a profusion of Light. This aspect of her work went on display in January 2022, during her personal exhibition "SENSO" at the Galerie des Dominicains, opposite the Opera House in the center of Nice.

The previous year, she published a book tracing the history of their home in Nice, the result of five years of research at the Municipal and Departmental

Archives of Nice, the Archives of Turin and similar institutions in London, Penang and New Delhi. 2021 was also the year in which the City of Nice was listed as as a Riviera Winter Resort City on the Unesco World Heritage Site: a successful synchronicity for her book "Le Château de l'Anglais - histoire, légendes et mystère" published by Baie des Anges in September of that very year.

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