

Penny Slinger: Exploring the perception of self and the view of others

Penny Slinger's 'An Exorcism' (originally published as a book in (1977) and 'Mountain Ecstasy' (1978) works with collages to explore connections with mysticism, feminism and eroticism through her work. Fantasy is her prime influence as she uses powerful symbols and imagery to identify a perspective on how women are perceived and how they perceive themselves. This looks further into women viewing themselves and being viewed as goddesses, objects and mothers. She values sex and can be seen to explore the tantric perspective and how this coincides with the conscious. In her latter works 'Mountain Ecstasy' she describes "joy of entering the Technicolor dream with the restrictions gone, none of the bondage, just liberation and freedom." (Ocula.com, 2015) This referring to her links with ancient Egypt, sexual imagery and occult to expose and honor tantric alchemy and value the feminine as an equal influence and dynamic of a create life force and the spiritually divine.



Although Slinger uses fantasy to explore her feeling towards self and the feelings other have towards her, there is truth behind the dreams and mythology. Her content is truthful in regards to her self liberation. The British born artist has, since the 1970's- a time where such expression could be oppressed, explored such ideas which caused her to be banned from exhibiting in certain shows. Some said the world was not ready for her works and so the effectiveness has only just begun to come of excellence. Modern day society can establish the beauty and integrity of her art and view it as more than forgotten works. She explores her topic in a new and vibrant way in relation to the

construction of her collages allowing the audience to depict aspects of beauty, questioning society and their own perceptions on the feminine.



Her opinion of liberation and freedom differs slightly to mine as her work explores

freedom through the absence of physical restraints and the thoughts others impose on herself whereas my liberation comes from within. The connection of a tantric perspective appeals to my work as I personally believe a deeper understanding of self and others to be imperative to the development of the self, thus making it possible for liberation to take place once a process of self identity and preference has taken place. Her works in 'An Exorcism' explore an "unraveling of the Self from dualistic limitations and the projections of others." (Ocula.com, 2015) and delve further into the power of a patriarchal establishment. I want to look further into finding common ground between male and female and a balance of give and take to explore liberation and freedom coming from both parties becoming equal. With the absence of patriarchy, and the presence of communication a sense of freedom can consummate.

Ocula.com. (2015). *Penny Slinger in Solo exhibition at Blum & Poe, Tokyo*. [online] Available at: <https://ocula.com/art-galleries/blum-poe-tokyo/exhibitions/solo-exhibition/> [Accessed 31 Oct. 2017].