

# A Message of Hope

Story and photos by Martin Tucker

Nicole Monteran, of Berlin, Germany, brought her artwork to Winston-Salem in October. Her original paintings and painted panels were on display at a reception at the home of Nancy Grantham in Winston-Salem. Nicole's sister, Catherine Jones, who used to own and operate La Chaudiere French restaurant, also lives in Winston-Salem. Catherine has been a collector of Nicole's work for years and is very happy that Nicole's work is now on display here.

Both Nicole and Catherine grew up in an artistic family in France. Their grandfather and father had both been cameramen on European and American films. They worked with Mary Pickford and John Barrymore and the family traveled with their father to Africa, Germany and the United States.

At a special high school for visual arts in Nice, Nicole studied photography, typography and printing before becoming a graphic artist for advertising agencies. While staying at home with her first child, she took a deep breath and said, "I was a painter, I am a painter, from now on I am free". "I started painting for personal satisfaction", she says. "I was influenced by French artists such as Cezanne, Pissaro and Bonnard, but I also like the strong images and composition of Japanese art". She often incorporates oils, acrylics, glass and watercolor in her pieces. "They always reflect what is going on in my life".

The dark streets and skylines of Berlin, where she has lived for over twenty-five years, can be seen in the background of many of her works. The people in the foreground are full of emotion and light. Germany is her home and she paints to illuminate and hopefully, to change. "The country is like a large dark river," she says. "Germany taught me to do things more profoundly."

So, as Catherine has discovered the art of fine cuisine, Nicole has discovered the visual arts. "My paintings always have a message and a history behind them", she says. Now the Triad has the opportunity to discover Nicole Monteran's powerful artwork.

*Nancy Grantham will be representing Nicole Monteran's work in the area and can be reached at [nancy-doodles@triad.rr.com](mailto:nancy-doodles@triad.rr.com).*



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