

*The Enclaves Gallery*  2900 Sheaff Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19145

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THE ZIG-ZAG LINES OF MY LIFE:

JOSETTE SIMON GESTIN AT THE ENCLAVES GALLERY

Internationally known French artist, Josette Simon Gestin, will show a selection of her works at The Enclaves Gallery from November 16, 2008 to January 18, 2009. The show is entitled "The Zig-Zag Lines of My Life" and investigates the many ways in which Gestin's travels and international experiences have informed both her life and her art. The gallery is located at 2900 Sheaff Lane in South Philadelphia, near the intersection of Penrose and Pattison Avenues. Hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. by appointment with Director. **An opening reception will be held on Sunday, November 16, from 2 to 5 p.m. (See [www.enclavesgallery.com](http://www.enclavesgallery.com) for directions and further information.)**

Gestin is a native of Brittany, France, where she studied at L'ecole des Beaux-arts in Rennes. Gestin states, "I paint women and animals in a fantasy world with a poetic feeling". Her hope is that her work will be "better than aspirin for the onlookers," to quote Matisse. The themes she explores are those dealing with relationships and with identity. The "zig-zag" of a life lived from her native France, to the U.S., then to Italy and Austria, back to the U.S. is one which both nourishes and disconnects a person's identity. Says Gestin, "In a global world where the risk of rejection, because of religion or race, is common, being able to be yourself and express it, is one way to survive and to make other people aware that they are not alone."

Her work has shown in Italy, Austria, France and Japan. As a consequence of her husband's work, Gestin has lived in several different parts of the United States. She has taken part in group and one-person shows in Florida, Missouri, California, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania. Her art is held in private and public collections throughout the United States and Europe. This current series takes place on trains and in railroad stations, where Gestin herself has often been. "As your body is physically in one place, your mind is already thinking of the next destination. This is a perfect metaphor for someone who is constantly living between two countries, two cultures. This is what I am trying to express in my work."

More about Josette Simon Gestin can be found at <http://josettesimongestin.com>