

## Venetian fantasies

The first time I entered the nice, little art shop by Monica Martin, I felt a particular pleasure. Located in the hearth of Venice, "Itaca Art Studio" is something special. The atmosphere Monica creates is pleasant; she gently and willingly talks about what she likes and Monica loves many things: nature, water, art, Venice and music.

"Music" is a magic word for her, something peculiar of this town. Monica knows it since her childhood and she feels that picture and music have a lot in common in this place. In fact, the different tones and harmonies of colour and sound perfectly combine themselves in order to create a symphony, an harmonic unity.

Martin's paintings have something in common with the small free musical compositions called "fantasias". In fact, many of her works do not describe a particular *campo* or a *calle*, but they offer an open, general view of the town, something intimate and deep.

Most of all, Monica wants to paint and show the atmosphere that pervades Venice, an atmosphere that you can breath and live, something due to the incessantly play between light and water.

That's why her paintings give us particular sensations due to fine, unusual foreshortenings of a dreaming Venice: a gothic window, a typical crumbled facade, a gondola slowly gliding, a reflection on water...

Monica, obviously, likes the great magnificence of palaces, but she prefers the immaterial beauty of their reflection in the water of the channels: "the magic Venice", she calls it.

This artist is able to paint the continuous changes of the lagoon town. That's why, if you are attracted and enchanted by the mysterious beauty of this place you will be fascinated by the originality of Monica's paintings.

Cécile Granger

(art curator)