





DAVOOD ROOSTAEI
and his creation Cryptorealism

Prof. Dr. Phil. Cav. Hanns Theodor Flemming

Hanns Theodor Flemming and ...



... Davood Roostaei



... Max Ernst



... Friedrich Stowasser (Hundertwasser)



... David Hockney



... Joseph Beuys

Prof. Dr. Phil. cav. Hanns Theodor Flemming,

Art historian and art critic, born in Hamburg, where he worked until his retirement. He studied art history, archeology and English at the Universities of Munich, Heidelberg, Hamburg, Oxford and Berlin and did his Ph.D. with a dissertation on the English Pre-Raphaelite painter and poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti. In 1946 he became a freelance art critic for "Die Welt" and permanent staff member of the "Weltkunst" magazine, holding both positions for a great many years.

University lecturer from 1959 until 1981, then professor of art history, specialising in design, at the Fachhochschule (technical college) in Hamburg. Numerous books, essays, broadcasts and lectures on 19th and 20th century painting and plastic arts.

His most important work includes monographs on Ewald Mataré, Henry Moore, Bernhard Heiliger, Gustav eitz, Friedrich Karl Gotsch, Rudolf Hausner, Arik Brauer and Bruno Bruni. Prof. Flemming numbers among the first interpreters of work by Bernhard Schulze, Horst Janssen and Paul Wunderlich. He was the discoverer of cryptorealism and its creator, Davood Roostaei.

He visited Picasso, Matisse, Chagal, Nolde, Schmidt-Rottluff, Heckel, Max Beckmann, Oskar Kokoschka, Henry Moore, Salvador Dali, and had talks with Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp, Otto Dix, Eduard Bargheer, Rudolf Hausner, Ernst Fuchs, Hundertwasser, David Hockney, Andy Warhol and Joseph Beuys, reported in both essays and lectures.

In 1951 Prof. Flemming was made a membre societaire of the International Association of Art Critics, AICA, in Paris.

In 1972, following his publications on Italian art, in particular on Giorgio de Chirico and the Pittura metafisica, he was awarded the title of "Cavaliere" by the Italian President.

In 1998, he received the Austrian Cross of Honour, 1st Class, for Science and Art.

Prof. Flemming died on the 5th August 2005 in Reinbek nr. Hamburg at the age of 89 years.



DAVOOD ROOSTAEI
– and his creation *Cryptorealism*

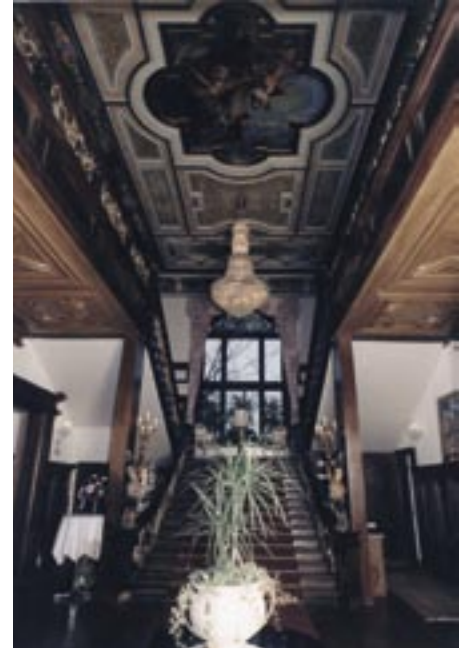
Davood Roostaei is a painter of unusual intensity of expression – invariably filled with profound inspiration and that commitment to the cause of mankind which provides his work with a humane dimension, that has become rare in contemporary art. He is an artist committed to the human cause, to whom painting means life. He strives to convey to all people his message of fraternity and tolerance, representing it passionately with all his strength, enforced by his own bitter experiences with an intolerant totalitarian regime. He is a universal artist who, metaphorically speaking, paints with the blood of his own heart. A challenging and charismatic painter who has intuitively developed an individualistic painting concept.

From the very beginning Davood Roostaei's works were characterised by unusual artistic skill, which he acquired during his studies at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Teheran and later in Cologne. This continues to give him the groundwork for his artistic virtuosity and multifarious means of pictorial expression, in which Oriental and Occidental components combine in a dynamic fashion. Yet, above all, he acquired his abilities as a painter and graphic and fresco artist through autodidactic studies of the old masters and the art of past centuries. Thus he gained essential insight into the creative works of both the Orient and the Occident. Only after the intensive study of artistic styles of the past and their intrinsic expressions of craftsmanship and formation, did he begin to go his own way, which will be discussed in this first monograph.

As related in his personal accounts, mentioned elsewhere in this monograph, Davood Roostaei has been doing creative work since early childhood. In the exquisite garden of his Persian childhood he had many opportunities to watch the wonders of nature and to create small works of art. Davood Roostaei descends from a royal family of the south of Persia; his great-grandfather having been a courageous king. His ancestors held leading positions up until the end of the Qajar rule. After the Qajar dynasty had been divested of power, the family estates were confiscated and its members imprisoned or killed.

Davood Roostaei grew up in the south of Persia where he attended high school and completed his university studies. His parents, who afforded him this very modern education, are, sadly, not able to participate in his success. His father, who died young, was a respected surgeon whose favourite hobby was painting. Because Davood Roostaei objected to war and killing and refused to do military service during the war between Iran and Iraq, he was imprisoned for 2 years. Then he came to Germany where he continued his artistic work with tremendous energy, first in Cologne and later in

*The artist before one
of his ceiling paintings
in the Villa Höltigbaum
(on pages 43, 44)*



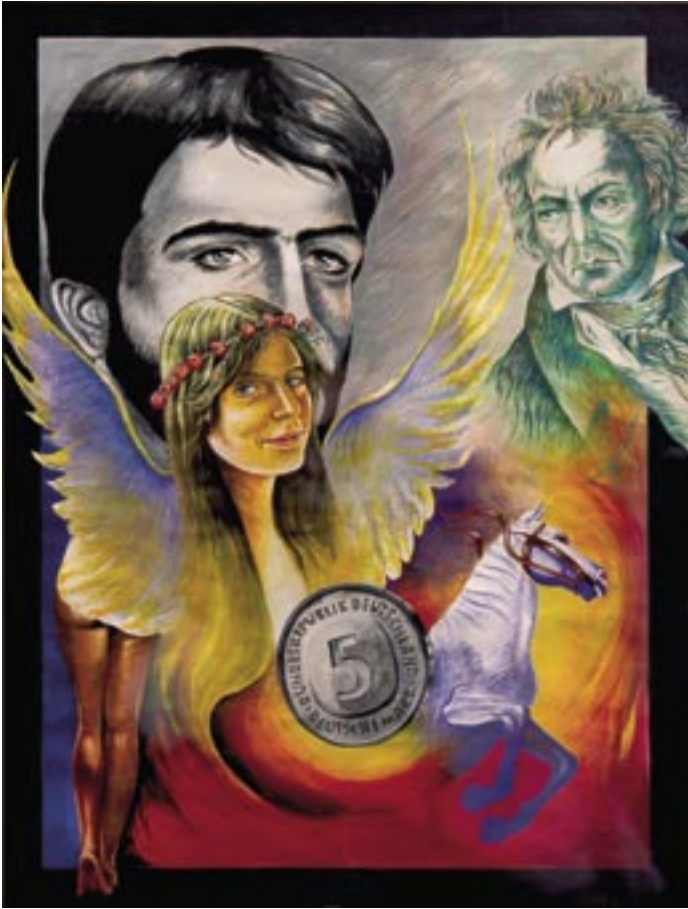
*"Allegory"
a painting which Davood Roostaei created in the
Villa Höltigbaum based on historical examples
(on page 46)*



*"Tangle-Haired Peter" – fresco painted
by Davood Roostaei in the Villa Höltigbaum
(on page 48)*



*Restored picture in the Villa Höltigbaum
(on page 49)*



"First Love in Germany"

40 x 60 cm.

watercolours

in a private collection

At the centre of the picture is a portrait of Davood Roostaei's unrequited first love in Germany. Behind this the artist has painted himself in ashen grey shades depicting the grief he feels at parting. The girl smiles, however, for her heart does not feel this grief, and she thinks of more material things. The wings indicate that the girl has no feeling of guilt. She rides into the distance on a white horse without giving a thought to Davood Roostaei's sadness. The warm colours in which the background to the horse are painted represent happiness in contrast to the grey of gloom which surrounds Davood Roostaei. The five-German-Mark coin represents the girl's fondness for material things and also Beethoven's Fifth Symphony which expresses the fact that despite all the chaos, in the end light and hope will prevail. Beethoven stands for constancy and the eternal, and this is emphasised by the colour green in which he is portrayed.



"Mirror in a Mirror"

28 x 36 cm.

watercolours

in a private collection



"Imprisoned in her own Beauty"

60 x 80 cm.

oil on canvas

in a private collection

In this painting the artist attempts to come to terms with an unhappy relationship with a young woman, a well-known German model, who led him to believe that she loved him. The beautiful long blonde hair, like golden water, was one of her most spectacular features. But it was just her extraordinary beauty that kept her imprisoned in egoism. As a symbol of this the beautiful landscape at the centre of the painting is so near, but cannot be reached for it is obstructed by bars.





“The Resurrection of Prometheus“

70 x 90 cm.

oil and acrylic on canvas

in a private collection

Numerous artists have painted their version of the bound Prometheus. He has also been presented in chains in stage productions. Davood Roostaei's Prometheus does not want to remain bound. He is a revolutionary who breaks his chains; he wants to experience a new day, a new life.

“Zeus“

140 x 100 cm.

oil and acrylic on canvas

in a private collection

