

Lola B. Deswarte

Lola B. Deswarte was born in Créteil. She lives and works in Paris. Her position as “female of the human species” now seems more or less diagnosed. It is not me who says it, but she herself who states it in presenting her portfolio. Lola is “a magician, a fairy, and maybe even a witch” (Anne Frémy). But there is a more moderate opinion that places her instead among women who have character. She is simply a young, contemporary woman with an activity, passion and boundless energy that allow her to live intensely. Work, without a pejorative preconception, is naturally feminine, in the sense that techniques, emotions, feelings, and sensations are intrinsic of the specific nature of her sex.

She and her work bear the marks of the duality that pervades our time. Meet *IDDLE* “a humanoid woolly mass with multiple pairs of legs, made up of an assortment of sweaters that I used to wear as a child”, which she attempts to move beyond her feet. You might also cross paths with *Belly Pain*, a sort of callipygian Nana embroidered with pearls that make her look both heavy and fragile. Lola is a woman, as she has told us and now confirms. These works are feminine both in design and realisation. She holds a certificate in hand embroidery (mentioned in her biographical details), but also received training in special effects in Hollywood (UCLA), which is definitely less of a “girly” thing. Another sample of her work, *Sisters*, is a series of drawings portraying creatures inspired by Shiva, the god with multiple arms symbolizing the versatility that is often demanded of women. But we can already see the other face emerge. *Belly Pain* is certainly a Nana but it is also all that the bellies of women must endure and suffer, “the seat of often dull pain, territory for the tempests of reproduction, of anxiety, of fear, of movement, and of pleasure too”. Here appears another Lola, more defiant, more rebellious, and responsive to world events.

New Born - Bel Horizon is a computer graphics video that Lola produced “taking liberties”. By this she means that she created it using her employer's equipment during work hours. Why am I saying it? Not because I wish to expose her (in fact she stated it herself in her portfolio), but to put things in context. Lola has a day job where she creates documentary material and infographics for a televised newscast. Every day, depending on the events and the demands of the newsroom, she produces rushed video clips that accompany the newsreader's reporting. She believes that “the result is often futile and obscene, but what is more obscene is the way newsrooms pick certain events, and ignore others”. In the face of this situation, she has set herself the task of “rebuilding” drama, unlike what she does for the televised news, directing her choices to an often forgotten topic. Thus was born *New Born - Bel Horizon*, the reconstruction of a shipwreck involving African refugees, and of a visual drift to the beach where a woman washed ashore gives us hope for a rebirth.

A feminist or a rebel, or both, Lola is more assuredly a woman, an artist.

Michel Poitevin