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Mystical Bulls of the Wondering Artist

By Dzoanna Eglite

The new collection of works titled "Cosmic Bull Series" by American painter Sheila Isham is exhibited in gallery "M6-Centrs" in Riga. It can be viewed until the end of July.

The exhibition is in honor of America's Independence Day, however, the only visual link that her works have with America is that Isham was born there. Everything else stands for itself and is unique.

Isham is an artist whose life and paintings have been deeply influenced by travel, since her husband is an American diplomat.

Her home places have been Russia, Asia, and the Caribbean islands. Similar to the artist Paul Gauguin who escaped to Haiti, Isham says

that's where her interest in myths and the ancient links between nature, gods and people comes from.

There is a simplicity in her art, but even these few pictures of the bulls seen in the Riga gallery fill the spectator with a strong sense of the unknown, given meaning by the small collages interacting with the paintings.

Wanting to understand and learn about the lore of Hinduism, Isham traveled to India in the middle of eighties. The interest in representing the mythology of the world through the figures of animals arose from this period.

"They appeared somehow spontaneously - my bulls," says Isham says. The cosmic bull in Hinduism is the protector of the strongest god - Shiva.

While observing these



Sheila Isham (right) at the opening of her exhibit in M6-Centrs Gallery, Marstalu 6. The gallery is open 11:00-18:00, Sun 12:00-18:00.

Photo by Kaspars Udris

strange, painted animals on canvases it even seems that each work awakens fantasies and memories of childhood,

when the link with the nature was natural and close.

"Which of my bulls do you like the best?" Isham asks one of

her guests at the opening of her exhibition. The same question can be asked to everyone: Which one do you like the best? □