

THE STUDIO OF GLORIA KISCH

by Yuko Nii

For show catalog

I was struck by the stark wonderous world of Gloria Kisch's studio with black painted ceilings and walls setting off the silver forest of hanging bells. In this outer worldly atmosphere, one almost senses one is on another planet, expecting to experience something unique and uncanny. About a dozen large scale polished steel bells are quietly suspended in the stillness with steel chains from the ceiling. Though Gloria called her work "bells," they are not conventionally bells as we know them. Some are more like mobiles. A single or double vertically hanging chain, different sizes of thin steel rods shaped like bone or twig like steel rods balancing in a horizontal position. and making harmony. Some look like the skeleton of a fish. Some have three dimensional round ball shapes or are oblong, pea pod like, or ring shaped. They are combined to give weight, volume and accent. The overall appearance of the work suggest primordial organic nature.

The uniqueness of Gloria Kisch's work is the use of the material. She has shifted the notion of steel being heavy & resting on the ground, to being light and airily suspended in space, creating an ethereal, feminine appearance and feeling. At the same time the notion of the polished steel, which is mostly seen in geometrical and sharp contemporary forms, Gloria has shifted to the notion of steel to organic, primordial appearance and feeling.

Even though her work is sculpture, she negates the volumetric aspect to stress the linear., which is more like drawing. Those quietly still bells invite the human touch or perhaps a wind to bring the sound - which delightfully makes them 4th dimensional.

Gloria told me that even though much of her life is spent in cities like Los Angeles or New York, she loves to travel to countries in East Asia, Africa, or Latin America.. In the current high tech oriented society our pace of life has quickened, and we are surrounded with material abundance. One tends to overlook our spiritual nature. Gloria is in touch with what we are missing. Her work is an intuitive response to an inner voice rather than a search for logical answers.

Gloria returns once again to look into the basic need to connect nature and spirituality, which is universally shared by every living being.