

FRANCE - AMÉRIQUE

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Le Courrier des États-Unis*Distinctions Remises de décorations à Boston, Chicago et New York***Les Arts et les Lettres pour Odile Gorse**

Le 27 juin dernier, Kareen Rispal, conseillère culturelle près l'ambassade de France à New York, remettait à Odile Gorse les insignes de Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Décoration qui récompense une carrière au service des échanges artistiques.

Née à Abidjan en Côte d'Ivoire et élevée au Sénégal où son père occupait le poste d'Officier ingénieur des Eaux et Forêts outremer, Odile a été dès son enfance imprégnée de la lumière et des couleurs de l'Afrique qui plus tard influenceront sa recherche dans le domaine qu'elle a choisi — celui des arts plastiques.

Son éducation s'est faite dans les musées et les sites historiques que lui ont fait découvrir ses parents. Plus tard, après ses études universitaires en histoire de l'art à la Sorbonne, elle suivit ses parents aux États-Unis où son père travaillait à la Banque Mondiale. Elle ne quitta



Odile Gorse, « agent d'artiste ».

plus ce qui est devenu son pays d'adoption. Dans son discours de remerciements, Odile expliqua sa fonction : agent d'artiste. « Je vais à la

découverte des artistes et les aide à partager leur talent avec le monde. Le « mariage » entre l'artiste et l'agent doit être une synergie

venant de 2 personnes ayant la même vision et ayant pris la décision de parcourir ensemble le même chemin vers le même but. »

Depuis 29 ans qu'elle exerce ce métier, Odile a eu l'occasion de rencontrer des artistes venant de différentes parties du monde. Ce soir là, elle était entourée de quelques-uns d'entre eux à qui elle tint à rendre hommage : Sonya Sklaroff, Christiane Papé, Sarah Snow et Mikhail Gubin — deux Américaines, une Suisse et un Ukrainien.

Odile a voulu partager l'honneur qui lui était fait avec son mari Ghenadie Burlacu qui est aussi son associé dans la compagnie G & O Art (www.goartonline.com).

En concluant, elle a tenu à remercier particulièrement l'ambassadeur Richard Duqué qui fut le

premier à reconnaître ses mérites pour la collaboration étroite qu'elle a eu pendant six ans avec le consulat général de France à New York et qui fut à l'origine de cette distinction.

La cérémonie se termina sous les applaudissements de la centaine d'amis qui avaient voulu rendre hommage à celle qui a contribué au rayonnement de la culture et à sa diffusion dans le monde.

Françoise CESTAC
Présidente de l'Association culturelle francophone de l'ONU

The Arts and Letters Order for Odile Gorse

full article text

On Tuesday June 27 Kareen Rispal, the Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy in New York has presented Odile Gorse with the insignia of the Chevalier in the Order of the Arts and the Letters. A decoration well deserved in the mind of those who know the career of our friend.

Born in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and growing up in Senegal where her father was stationed as the Chief engineer of Waters and Forests, Odile from her childhood has been immersed into African and French culture, in a word universal culture.

Right from the start Odile has savored the light and colors of Africa that later influenced her choices in the profession she chose – art agent.

Her education took place in the museums and historical sites that her parents introduced her to. Later, after studying Art History at the Sorbonne University, Odile followed her parents to the United States where her father was working at the World Bank.

Since then the US has become her adoptive country.

In her speech which she dedicated to her parents, who unfortunately could not make the trip from Paris, Odile asked the audience a question: “Many people think I am a gallery owner. But how would you define what I really am: an art agent. To be art agent means to discover new artists and to help them share their talent with the world. The “marriage” between an artist and an agent must be the synergy of 2 people that have the same vision and decide to travel together towards the same goal.

While looking at a work of art she uses many of her senses, such as the sight and the touch, Odile said. She has the aptitude of seeing the work through the artist’s eyes and wants to show everyone that talent is more important than trends.

Having been in this profession for almost 30 years Odile has had the occasion to meet many artists from all over the world. That evening some of them were in the room and she thanked them personally. Christiane Papé, for the explosion of strong colors, force and sensuality emanating from her paintings. Sonya Sklaroff, for her unique and passionate rendition of the most unforgettable New York twilights.

Sarah Snow, for her magnificent collages that bring us into a surreal and calm world full of unexpected details.

Mikhail Gubin, a creative force full of surprises who continues to draw us into his world of perpetual rebirth.

Her deep beautiful voice could not hide her emotions, when she shared the honor she received that evening with her husband Ghenadie Burlacu, with whom she created the company G & O Art ([www. goartonline.com](http://www.goartonline.com)). She said that “all I do is the work of 2 people and this medal is also his.”

She also dedicated this decoration to 4 people who have marked her life and are no longer with us: Frank, David, Henri, and Arianne “étincelle”.

In closing, Odile Gorse particularly thanked Ambassador Richard Duqué who was among the first to recognize her merits during the six-year close collaboration she had with the General Consulate of France in New York, and who nominated her for this distinction.

The overwhelming applause of a hundred of friends who accepted the invitation of the Cultural Counselor where a testimony of the admiration and real affection all of them have for Odile Gorse. It was a vibrant tribute to a woman who contributed to the promotion of the arts in the world.

Françoise Cestac – Présidente de l'Association Culturelle Francophone de l'ONU

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