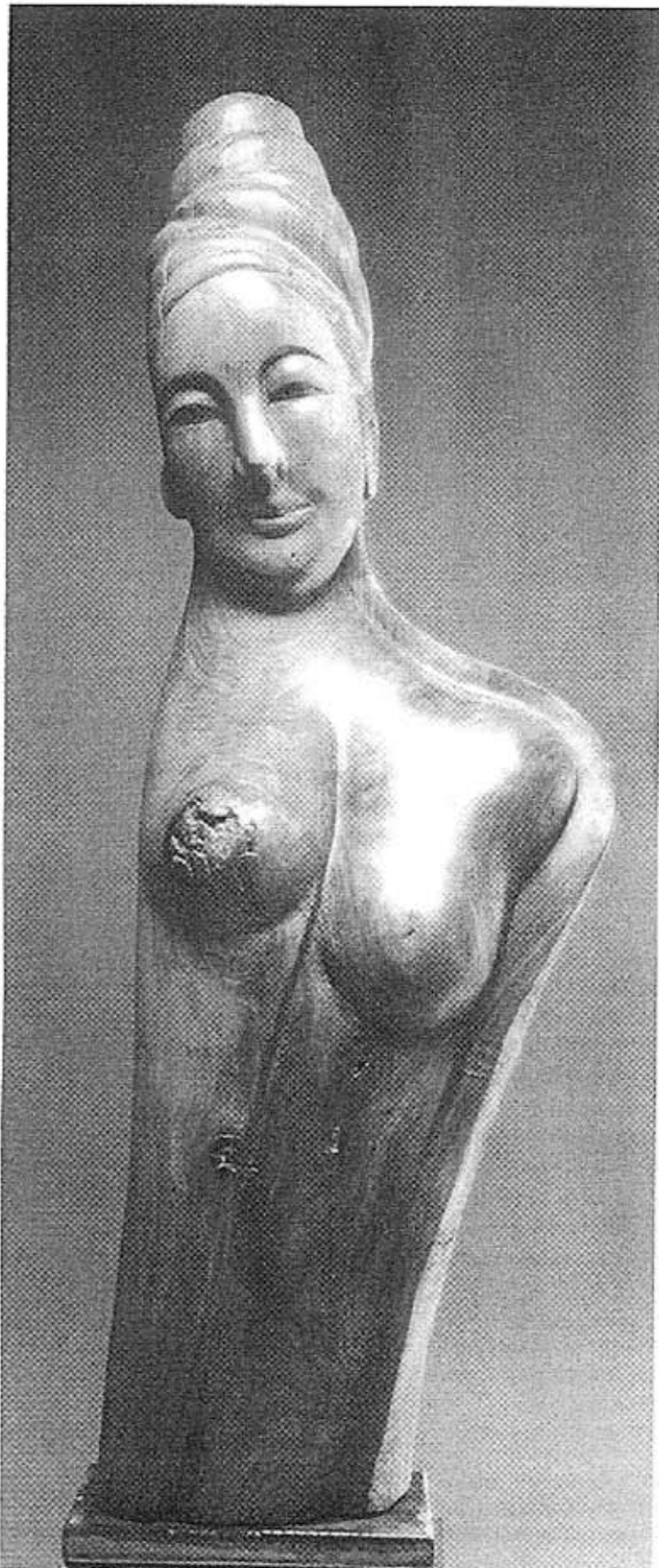


EMILY MEHLING

"LEILA" – black walnut sculpture



MASAKO HONJO

links emotion with purity



MASAKO HONJO, "Crescendo," oil on canvas

(Written by Palmer Poroner, as appeared in ARTspeak)

Though born and reared in Japan, Masako Honjo received her art training in New York. She has been exhibiting since 1979, with one solo in Osaka and two at Gallery 84 in New York. She has received many awards, including a study scholarship at the New York Art Students League and the Akston Foundation Award. She was invited to exhibit in "Dimensions in Color," at the famous American art colony of Woodstock, in the Woodstock Artists Association in New York.

Masako Honjo's newest art proves that her paintings are growing steadily in mastery and force. With added mastery comes further assurance with color. The artist creates circular areas of color that sweep over the canvas, sometimes overlapping to create dynamic swirls of shapes. Her action makes one think of a more elaborate Kandinsky. Honjo appears to ally herself more with the recent complex European constructivism than with a purist American strain. Her spirit is, however, very dynamic and lighter in purpose. Curved shapes and lines enhance the movement and buoyancy, which abstract floral line motifs maintain equilibrium. Her organic rhythms with sumptuous colors echo the Oriental spirit. They stem from her lyricism, her job of life.

The painting, "Crescendo," demonstrates the peak of energy that Honjo can attain. This work, which exemplifying great power and movement, increases its sense of inner strength by its balance of composition and by employing the linear elements with just a much vigor as the areas of bold color.

Masako Honjo's forms seem to represent elementary forces. Therefore, her titles often express the micro world or the cosmos. However, the cosmos is not the source of her art but stands as a point of reference. Honjo never forgets the element of the intimate and personal.