

ARTnews

April, 1984



Valentina DuBasky, *Dune Horse Starry Night*, 1983, lithograph with glitter, 22 x 30 inches, Bristol Art Editions.

VALENTINA DUBASKY, a painter who belongs to the magical wing of today's young figurative artists, gets across the essence of her poetical vision in her first print. *Dune Horse Starry Night*, a complex six-run lithograph with glitter, also reveals a clear-cut talent for mastering the intricacies of this inherently pictorial medium.

In the print, DuBasky's favorite recurrent motif, a horse, which is also found in her paintings and drawings, is shown in profile. It is boldly and childishly drawn with a few marks, and summarily colored. The horse has the symbolic power of the primitive cave paintings of animals that it so closely resembles in style and sensibility. Its evocative appeal is enhanced by the background – a seductive, desertlike range of

tones whose horizon arrangement brings to mind landscape. Formally, the overall composition is pulled together by subtle spatial shifts that focus attention on the edges of planes and on color repetitions and contrasts. Spots of glitter distributed strategically throughout the textured layered surfaces highlight DuBasky's sensitive nuancing of deep purples, red, pink, blue, yellow and coral. Printed on Arches buff, *Dune Horse Story Night* represents an auspicious start for DuBasky as a printmaker. The addition numbers of 40, with six artist proofs. Printed and distributed by Solo Press, New York; published by Bristol Art Additions, New York, 1983.

–Ronny Cohen