



Linnea Toney Leeming

Linnea Toney Leeming's parents were both artists who provided their young child with vast resources of multimedia materials, which shaped the foundation of her unlimited creativity. Her father built her first real studio while in her pre-teen years, allowing her the freedom to express herself at an early age. More support came from her first mentor, John DeMelim, Chair of the Art Department of RIC, a family friend who encouraged her towards a career in the arts.

Linnea's art has always been about her exploration of new experiences, the visual excitement of new areas, new colors, and new attitudes. While in college, she hitchhiked across the country and back with friends and, after receiving her BFA, she made further travels to Europe to study art and architecture. Her journeys culminated in a large body of work that was exhibited at Hera, a Women's Cooperative Gallery of which she was among the first members.

Becoming a photographer and prop stylist helped fulfill a need to experience new and exciting adventures, and Linnea eventually married an advertising photographer. As well as having a long, happy and supportive marriage, the relationship also gave her the opportunity to see and share new ideas with creative people from places like Paris, Montreal, Chicago, New York and even Pacific Rim countries like Japan and Taiwan.

All the while, Linnea continued her own personal art, studying at length with Mary Ann Santos, professor of art at NYU's MFA program and Victor Lara, professor of art at RISD. Eventually, she abandoned prop styling altogether to become a full-time artist, allowing her time to travel and absorb the art and culture of America and Europe as well as attending residencies with other known abstract painters. She became passionate about teaching other adults her many skills in both oil and acrylic and still conducts classes today.

Linnea's vibrant and energetic abstract paintings can be seen in many galleries and collections both in the United States and abroad.

> texture

> expression



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Artist Statement

Our love for a work of art is an intimate affair, which is why we long to own the work so we can live with it – touch it, move it around, and have it as our own. When the work is abstract, there are endless reasons for our attraction. Abstract art is an abstraction. It does not represent anything. It is nonobjective. Instead of depicting what we recognize in the world of objects, people and nature, abstract art is concerned with color, line, form, and texture. It is not reality-based but emotionally-based. It is expressive and gestural. When an artist paints or sculpts, they are driven to express what they see and feel.

“Of all the arts, abstract painting is the most difficult. It demands that you know how to draw well, that you have a heightened sensitivity for composition and for colours, and that you be a true poet. This last is essential.”
– Wassily Kandinsky

My poetry is creating beauty in expressionistic painting, always with great quantities of energy, humor and observation. My paintings are each a harmony of process and discovery, each a medium for passion, joy and excitement.

I focus my interest in creating a sense of space and time. I use the abstractionist’s process-driven approach to painting and the practice of listening to the unconscious. Large abstract paintings are conceived by making a series of considered decisions fueled by issues of color and space, where lines, patterns, and textures overlap and merge into unified compositions. Layering color, mediums and glazes, my compositions evolve of their own accord, acquiring their own presence and identity. I am relentless in using various media and experimentation to create the finished piece. I work intuitively and impulsively, always vibrant and energetic, creating paintings that burst with color; my mind and my hand work together to spark imagination.

My paintings can be seen in galleries and collections throughout the United States, as well as collections in Moscow and Shanghai.

Education

Golden Foundation, Mediums, New Berlin, NY – 2012
Encaustic, R&F Paints, Kingston, NY – 1997
Bennington College, Katherine Porter – 1995
Vermont Studio Center – 1991, 1993
Fellowship recipient, Private instruction, Victor Lara – 1993, 1994, 1995
Rhode Island School of Design
Mary Ann Santos – 1990, 1991, 1992
Abstract Expressionism, Lenny Long – 1991
Victor Lara – 1992, 1993
Boston Museum School, Painting – 1989, 1990
BFA, University of Rhode Island – 1974

Galleries

Townley Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA – 2013-present
ArtProv Gallery, Providence, RI – 2014
Bego Ezair Gallery, Madison Ave, NYC – 2011-2012
Bego Ezair Gallery, Southampton, NY
Bego Ezair Hotel-Gallery, Greenport, NY
Copley Society, Newbury Street, Boston, MA – 2011-present
Diana Levine Gallery, Boston, MA – 2010-present
Courtyard Gallery, Mystic, CT – 2008-2012
Complements Gallery, Warwick, RI – 2008-present
Charlestown Gallery, Charlestown, RI – 2006-present

Selected Exhibitions

ArtProv Gallery, Solo show, Providence, RI – June-July 2014
RISCA, Block Island Airport, Solo show – April-July 2014
Gallery Z, *Collections* – January-March 2014
Newport Art Museum, *Annual Juried Exhibition* – January-May 2013, January-May 2014
Providence Art Club, *Juried Members*, Charlton Goff Award – February 2014

Charlestown Gallery, *The Abstracts Show* – May 2012

Providence Art Club, *Engaging the Senses*,
Large abstract paintings – May 2012

Bego Ezair Gallery, Summer Summit,
Southampton, NY – June-August 2011

Bego Ezair Gallery, Summer Summit,
Greenport, NY – June-August 2011

Imago Gallery, Invitational, Warren, RI – January 2011

Atrium Gallery, One Financial Plaza, Solo show,
Providence, RI – April-October 2010

14 Large Abstracts, Providence Art Club, *The Color of
Light*, Abstract paintings, Providence, RI – February 2010

Scenes of Rhode Island, Governor's juried show –
January 2009, January 2010

Providence Art Club, Members show,
Providence, RI – June 2008, 2009, 2010

South County Art Association, Open juried and members
shows, Invitational, Kingston, RI – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010

Charlestown Gallery, Abstract painters show,
Charlestown, RI – August 2006

Wickford Art Association, Juried abstract painting,
Wickford, RI – September 2005

University of Rhode Island, Fine Arts Center,
Drawing in Charcoal: A Conversation Apart, Two-women
abstract drawing show, Kingston, RI – October-November
1997

Subterra Gallery, Three abstract painters, Providence, RI
– July-September 1997

Happy White Gallery, *To Bloom in the Fire*, Eight abstract
painters (also acting curator), Barrington, RI – September-
November 1996

Brown University, List Art Center, Bell Gallery, *By Virtue
of Excellence*, Juried group show, National Museum for
Women in the Arts, Abstract painting – June 1995

Fuller Art Museum, Group show, Brockton, MA – April 1995

Brown University, Sarah Doyle Gallery, Group show –
March 1995

Warwick Art Museum, Juried abstract painting shows,
Warwick, RI – October 1993, 1994

Hera Gallery, Anniversary exhibit, Abstract paintings,
Wakefield, RI – June 1994

Vermont Studio Center, Paintings and drawings,
Johnson, VT – August 1993

Community College of Rhode Island, One-woman
show, Retrospective, photographs, film positives, photo
sculptures, Lincoln, RI – October 1980

Anyart Gallery, Three photographers show, Photographs
and photo sculptures, Providence, RI – May 1979

Hera Gallery, Photographs and photo murals,
One-woman show, Wakefield, RI – October 1977

Loft Horizons Gallery, Group show, Photographs,
Providence, RI – May 1977

Hera Gallery, *Space/Clay/Women*, Ceramic show, mixed
media, photos on clay, Wakefield, RI – December 1976

Hera Gallery, Photographs, One-woman show,
Wakefield, RI – September 1976

SOHO 20, Gallery exchange show, New York, NY – May 1975

Rhode Island School of Design, Woods Gerry Gallery,
International Women's Year, Juried show, Providence, RI –
November 1975

Anyart Gallery, Photography invitational,
Warren, RI – October 1975

Awards

Charlton Goff Award, Providence Art Club, Juried by
Peter Geisser, National Arts Education Association,
Eastern Region Vice-President Elect – 2014

First Place, Providence Art Club, Juried by Andrew
Raftery, Associate Professor and Former Department
Head of Printmaking at RISD – 2010

Vermont Studio Center, Fellowship Recipient – 1986, 1993

Melissa Barbeau Grant, Intensive study at Center for
Creative Imaging, Camden, ME – 1993

Publications

Best of Worldwide Abstract Artists, Kennedy Publications – 2012

Diana Levine Fine Art, Cybele, Boston Design Center Magazine – 2011

Bit of Inspiration, by Patricia Ann Chaffee, Charlestown Press – September 2010

Matunuck: Not Just a Place But a State of Mind, A Collection of Interviews with Artists, by Sandy McCaw – June 2009

Painter Linnea Leeming Mixes Life and Nature to Create Her Vision, Smithfield Magazine, by Douglas Hadden – January 2009

Drawing in Charcoal: A Conversation Apart, and Arts and Culture Review, The Good 5 Cent Cigar – November 7, 1997

The Time is Now for Contemporary, by Bill Van Siclen, Providence Journal – October 4, 1996

Art Spotlight, by Bill Van Siclen, Providence Journal – January 20, 1993

Career

Painting instructor:

Private Instructor – Summer 2011-present

Providence Art Club – 2009-present

South County Art Association – 2006-2011

Freelance prop stylist for advertising photographers: Boston and Southern New England – 1999-present

Photo stylist and co-owner, studio manager: Leeming Studios, advertising photography studio in Providence, RI – 1977-2005

Women's Advertising Club of RI, Board of Directors – 1989-1991

Teaching Workshops:

Nature Conservancy, *Abstract Landscape* – 2012

Providence Art Club, *Abstracting the Still Life*, Two-day intensive – 2012

South County Art Association, *Painting* – 2006-present

DeCordova Museum, *Encaustic workshop* – 1994

Hera Women's Cooperative Gallery, *Fine art photography* – 1975

Johnson and Wales, *Weekend College, Photography* – 1973

Hera Women's Cooperative Gallery, *Member* – 1975, 1978

Freelance photographer:

Artists International – 1970-1977

RI State Ballet – 1970-1977



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HOURS

Check website for weekly hours