



## Paula Martiesian

Paula Martiesian is a painter, a freelance arts writer and the exhibitions curator for the BankRI Galleries. She is one of the founding members and former board chairman of Gallery Night Providence.

Martiesian has been painting and exhibiting for over forty years. Her work explores the uncultivated, wild stretches of nature that still exist in the urban landscape. She started painting at an early age, attending art classes at the Rhode Island School of Design when she was five. She continued her education at RISD as an undergraduate and, after graduation, studied with Rhode Island painter and retired RISD professor Gordon Peers (1909-1988).

Martiesian and her husband, Ken Carpenter, created and published *Quix Art Magazine* from 1991 until 1998. She continues to write freelance articles about the arts. Her articles have appeared in *Destination Providence*, *East Side Monthly*, *The Providence Eagle*, *The Providence Journal* and the RISD alumni magazine, *RISD XYZ*.

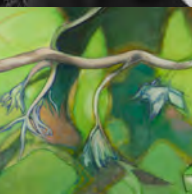
Martiesian has curated hundreds of exhibits at area galleries, including the Sarah Doyle Gallery, Centercity Contemporary Arts and the Providence Art Club. She is now the exhibitions curator for the BankRI Galleries. Martiesian has garnered area awards in the arts and is part of Networks 2013.

Her paintings are in private and public collections throughout the United States, including the Newport Art Museum and Women and Infants Hospital.

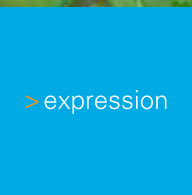
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401 641 5182, [michele@artprovgallery.com](mailto:michele@artprovgallery.com), [ArtProvGallery.com](http://ArtProvGallery.com)

### HOURS

Check website for weekly hours



> texture



> expression



## Paula Martiesian

### Artist Statement

Without glasses, my vision of the world is a dreamy myopic haze of color and movement. There is no digital clarity in my nature. It is chaos and constant change, lyric and otherworldly. Even in the confines of the urban landscape, I see wilderness. In my world, gardens are not neat and tidy rows of vegetables or an idyll of perfectly delineated flower beds, but a decidedly messy competition between vines and trees and plants for light and water.

I look to nature for its infinite variety, for its serendipitous nature, for its sheer unexpectedness. And I try to emulate that unpredictable quality in my paintings. It is no longer enough to “solve” the pictorial problems of composition, color and line that a painting poses. Instead, I strive to recreate the very atmosphere I see, translating a natural ecosystem of color and movement onto a very unnatural rectangle of canvas. I want to discover and celebrate a world that has no straight lines, a world that has no neat and tidy solutions.

I have always seen colors that others don't see: burnt pinks in the dry grassy fields bordering the freeway, watery reds in the reflections of my dog's drinking dish and dusky purples in the shadows of the evergreens in my garden. It seems natural, therefore, that my paintings reflect this lifelong connection with color.

Swatches, drips, and lines of color play back and forth and in and out of the picture plane of my canvases. I use rags and paper towels to rub the paint into the surface of the canvas, saturating the color deep into the very pores of the linen. I use brushes to coax color into lines and palette knives to slather paint onto the surface. The very next moment, I wipe it all away, in search of the elusive moment where everything works as one.

When everything does come together, it is magic. The essentially still medium of paint on canvas explodes into a dynamic field of color that sways and dances and sings of hue and movement. This is my moment. Hundreds of hours go into each painting and if I am lucky, those hours coalesce into one fistful of fused color, a canvas chock full of nuance and intensity.

### Present

Painter and Artist  
Exhibitions Curator, BankRI Galleries  
Freelance Arts Journalist

### Education

BFA, Painting, Rhode Island School of Design – 1976  
Private Study with Gordon Peers – 1978-1988

### Professional Affiliations

Board Member, Gallery Night Providence – Present  
Board Chair and Founding Member, Gallery Night Providence – 1998-2013  
Board Chair, Centercity Contemporary Arts – 1997-2005  
Editor, Publisher and Co-designer of *QUIX Arts Magazine* – 1991-1999  
Board Member, AS220 – 1992-1995  
Board Member, Rhode Islanders for the Arts – 1993-1995  
Board Member, Sarah Doyle Gallery – 1993-1996  
Board Member, Total Arts Providence – 1992-1993  
Arts Writer, *The Providence Eagle* – 1984-1985  
Member, Dorothy Jungels Dance Troupe – 1979-1980

### Awards & Recognitions

Networks 2013  
Recipient, WaterFire Daedalus Award – 2004  
Recipient, Business Volunteers for the Arts, Arts Advocate Award – 1999

### Museum Exhibitions

*Contemporary Women Artists*, Bristol, RI – July 22-September 4, 2016

*Networks 2013-2014*, The Newport Art Museum Cushing Gallery – September 2014

*Legacies in Paint: The Mentor Project*, The Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI – February 1-May 5, 2013

*Recollections/Reconnections*, The Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI – March 17-May 6, 2012

*It's a Jungle Out There*, The Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI – October 18-December 31, 2003

*Down to Earth: The Enduring Landscape*, The RISD Museum, Providence, RI – July-August 1998

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

*Paintings by Paula Martiesian*, Bert Gallery, Providence, RI – July 8-August 1, 2008

*Recent Paintings*, Gail Cahalan Gallery, Providence, RI – April 26-May 23, 2008

*Trees I Have Known*, risd/works, Providence, RI – January 5-February 4, 2006

*It's a Jungle Out There*, The Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI – October 18-December 31, 2003

*Fields of Color*, The Bert Gallery, Providence, RI – March 2002

### Selected Group Exhibitions

*Thirty Years: Martiesian, Speiser & Bert*, Bert Gallery, Providence, RI – March 2015

*Among the Living: Eight of our Favorite Contemporary Artists at Bert Gallery*, Bert Gallery, Providence, RI – May 9-June 18, 2010

*Man vs. Nature: Paintings by Mark Freedman and Paula Martiesian*, Charlestown Gallery, Charlestown, RI – July 31-August 18, 2010

*Holiday Group Exhibition*, Charlestown Gallery, Charlestown, RI – December 2009

*Armenian Artists*, Gallery Z, Providence, RI – September 2007

*Rediscovering Nature (in an Unnatural World): Paintings by Paula Martiesian and Michele Provost*, Space at Alice, Providence, RI – June-July 2007

*American Identity*, The Bert Gallery, Providence, RI – Summer 2006

*Five Rhode Island Artists*, Helme House, Kingston, RI – July 2005

*Color Matters*, The Bert Gallery, Providence, RI – May 2005

*Sunday's Best*, The Bert Gallery, Providence, RI – March 2005

*Celebrate Orange*, The Sarah Doyle Gallery, Providence, RI – April 2002

*Winter Solstice*, The Sarah Doyle Gallery, Providence, RI – April 2002

*Leisure Moments*, The Bert Gallery, Providence, RI – Summer 2000

*The Artist Muse: Images of Women Across the Decades*, The Bert Gallery, Providence, RI – January 2000

### Bibliography

30 Years: Martiesian, Speiser and Bert, *Providence Business News* – March 18, 2015

The Studio Visited and Revisited: Considering Artists' Production in Rhode Island, by Dominic Molon, RISD Museum of Art – December 2013

Networks 2013 – A Video Project by Richard Goulis, Produced by Dr. Joseph Chazan on YouTube and Vimeo

Legacies in Paint: The Mentor Project, *The Providence Phoenix* – January 12, 2013

Legacies in Paint: The Mentor Project, *The Newport Daily News*, March 13, 2013

Gallery Night Turns Sweet 16, By Bill Van Siclen, *The Providence Journal* – March 11, 2012

Joan Nathan Tells Stories, By Gail Ciampa, *The Providence Journal* – November 2, 2005

The New American Cooking, By Joan Nathan – October 2005

Five Rhode Island Artists, *The Narragansett Times* – July 2005

A Wealth of Color, By Bill Van Siclen, *The Providence Journal* – May 2005

Color Matters, Providence Antiques and the Arts Online – April 2005

Sunday's Best Reflects Social Trends, *ArtBusiness News* – February 2005

Living Color, By Bill Rodriguez, *The Providence Phoenix* – December 2003

Martiesian's Vivid Colors, By Roger Birn, *The Jamestown Journal* – November 2003

When Looking at Art, Consider the How and Why,  
*The Newport Daily News* – November 2003

Finishing Touches by Paula Martiesian,  
*The Providence Journal* – October 2003

Aids Care Ocean State Calendar – 2003

Color In Full Bloom, By Bill Van Siclen,  
*The Providence Journal* – March 2002

Two for Two, By Tom Morrissey,  
*Providence Monthly* – March 2002

Fields of Color, By Niccola Iovino,  
*The Narragansett Times* – March 2002

Cover in the Aids Care Ocean State Calendar – 2002

Self Portraits, By Channing Gray, *The Providence Journal* – January 2001

Notable Survey, By Bill Van Siclen, *The Providence Journal* – August 1999

Hurry to Catch Martiesian, By Channing Gray,  
*The Providence Journal* – October 1999

Color Dominates October Art Scene,  
By Karen Triedman, *East Side Monthly* – October 1999

Art's Silent Hero, By Ellen Liberman, *The Providence Journal* – March 1997

A Space for Art, By Doug Riggs, *The Rhode Island Magazine* – March 1995

Artists on Art, By Bob Kerr, *The Providence Journal* – June 1993

### Publications

RISD.edu enews, Mentoring Matters – January 30, 2013

Anderson Gallery Magazine, John deMelim

*RISD XYZ*, Michael Neff – Winter 2012

*RISD XYZ*, Lisa Pevaroff – Winter 2012

*RISD XYZ*, Becky Fong – Spring 2012

*RISD XYZ*, Kristina DiTullo – Fall 2011

*RISD XYZ*, Jim Leggitt – Spring 2011

*RISD XYZ*, Polly Carpenter, Winter 2010

*RISD XYZ*, David Stark – Fall 2010

*Destination Providence*, The Roger Williams Park  
Botanical Center – March 2006

*Destination Providence*, Boris Bally: Road Signs  
to Success – September 2005

*Destination Providence*, Collecting 101 – March 2005

*The Providence Journal*, Finishing Touches – October 2003

*QUIX Art Magazine*, Editor, Feature Writer and Editor –  
March 1991-March 1999

### Selected Collections

Dr. Arthur and Catherine Little Bert

Mark and Linda Carlson

Barbara Carpenter

Dr. Joseph Chazan

Stanley and Merle Goldstein

A. Michelle Hogan

Michael and the late Hope Freeman Hudner

Drs. Eglantina Kica and Douglas Kraut

Ellen Liberman and Jerome Adams

Lynne McCormack

Michael Moskwa

Newport Art Museum

William and Susan Rittling

Robinson & Cole Law Firm

Jessica Deane Rosner and Andy Smith

Women & Infants Hospital

*Paula Martiesian is represented in Rhode Island by  
the Bert Gallery at 540 South Water Street in Providence  
and by the Charlestown Gallery at 5000 South County  
Trail in Charlestown.*