

Rita Klachkin

Fine Artist

ritaklachkin.com

973-968-6177 ritaklachkinart@gmail.com

Biography

The daughter of an artist mother, Rita Klachkin was destined for a creative life. As a young artist, she recalls the positive feedback she received for her art, how it fed her sensibilities and encouraged her to create more.

Rita attended an arts oriented high school, flourishing in the studies of figure painting, gesture drawing, and intaglio printmaking, all of which are evidenced in her work today. She later graduated from the University of Hartford Connecticut with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Two-Dimensional Design. Her tendencies for expressionism were greatly influenced by German expressionists like Wolf Kahn. Searching for something more metaphorical, Rita drifted from the traditional landscapes and en plein air studies that once fulfilled her and she began to lean on the abstract. The challenge of removing the literal spoke to Rita although, in these early stages of inquiry, she did not explore as much of the inner process as she does today. This changed over time and, as she reveals about her work that “a lot of the process is working through the process,” she shifted more toward conceptually based work.

Today, Rita works almost exclusively in a metaphorical language of her own. Her process is a parallel to her interests and curiosities and stems from a variety of abstract ideas related to politics and events such as the California wild fires as well as to more general ideas like the state of the world and human motivations and “what makes people tick.” With a ripe curiosity, Rita finds a natural mode of expression in the process of her art-making which

involves layering, additive and subtractive methods, and hidden marks that get buried then uncovered. Rita describes this notion as “uncovering but not invasive, allowing me to explore but in my own timeframe.”

In 2010, Rita made a conscious decision to commit to making art on a consistent basis. Attending an encaustic conference for five years in a row with area artists was a path of inspiration that resulted in a greater continuity in her art-making. She now emerges regularly with new bodies of work, including her current sculptural paintings, a series of 3-dimensional mixed media works.

Rita's artwork is available for purchase and commission and can be viewed online at ritaklachkin.com

Artist Statement

I create abstract, mixed media works using oil paint, encaustic, charcoal, graphite, pastel, found objects, and various drawing materials. I often create monotypes, a form of printmaking involving prints made from a single printable plate or source.

My work is a metaphorical exploration of both concrete and abstract ideas related to the world and to people and what motivates them or “makes them tick” in addition to world events and conditions, and politics. I make preliminary marks on the canvas then work through covering and uncovering them. As I wait for something to dry I start another piece. My process and use of materials are directly connected to the ideas or messages being abstracted. It’s a process of layering and excavating and letting some parts emerge to be seen and results from a combination of additive and subtractive methods with the materials.

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Artist CV

EDUCATION

University of Hartford, Bachelor of Fine Art, 1983.

College of New Rochelle, Master of Science in Art Therapy, 1999.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1995 Borders Books, solo show, Livingston, New Jersey

2002 Livingston Town Hall, solo show, Livingston, New Jersey

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014 Los Lagunas Gallery, Los Angeles, California

2012 College of New Rochelle, "Through the Eyes of Art Therapists," juried exhibition, New Rochelle, New York

2011 Franklin Street Studios, Studio Tour, East Orange, New Jersey

2011 New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Member Show, New Jersey

2019 Rowayton Arts Center, Juried Exhibition, Rowayton, Connecticut

2010 Franklin Street Studios, Studio Tour, East Orange, New Jersey

2010 Hartford Art School, Alumni Show, University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut

2010 College of New Rochelle, Alumni Show, New Rochelle, New York

2009 American Juried Art Salon, National Juried Internet Show, Plano, Texas

2009 Franklin Street Studios, Studio Tour, East Orange, New Jersey

2008 Hartford Art School, Alumni Show, University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut

2007 Hartford Art School, Alumni Show, University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut

2006 College of New Rochelle, Alumni Show, New Rochelle, New York

2005 Circle Gallery, Livingston, New Jersey

2004 College of New Rochelle, Alumni Show, New Rochelle, New York

2004 Caldwell College, Caldwell, New Jersey

2003 Gaelen Gallery Juried Art Show, Whippany, New Jersey

2003 Caldwell College, Caldwell, New Jersey

2003 Art on the Oval, Livingston, New Jersey

2002 Art on the Oval, Livingston, New Jersey

2000 Livingston Public Library, Livingston, New Jersey

1999 Atrium Gallery, "Members Show," Pastel Society, Morristown, New Jersey

1985 Bridgeport Connecticut Public Library, Bridgeport, Connecticut

AWARDS

Honorable Mention. Art on the Oval, special event. 2003

2nd Place. Art on the Oval, special event. 2002.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

New Jersey Center for the Visual Arts, 2013, Member

Studio Montclair, Artist's Cooperative, 2000, Juried Member

American Counseling Association, 2006, Professional Member