



LINDA RYAN

Linda Ryan started out a realist from the age of ten, and studied with Robert Steiner, awardwinning 5-time Champion of the fierce Federal Duck-Stamp competitions and an early master of pen & ink as a young adult. While she was always driven to draw, Ryan always felt there was something lacking. Accuracy did not feel like art.

She enrolled in art classes in 1999 and began studying painting with Bill Paskewitz though Las Positas Co lege, Livermore, and immediately knew that this was her calling. Her third painting from her first Semester won a \$1,000 college competition award. And her other work started to sell.



Constantly painting and exploring acrylic gel mediums, she quickly moved away from exacting realism and began to find artistic voice, the guiding characteristic being a sense of movement, energy, and bold, fluid brush or knife/rubber tool work, often leaving much to

the viewer's imagination.

Robert Butler, owner of a gallery by his own name (formerly The Danville Art Gallery), invited her into his stable, gave her an award of \$10,000 to continue her explorations and expand her studio space, and began selling her abstract gel paintings. And, after the events of 9-11-2001, she began exploring abstract figurative as a way to bring viewers a connection to humanity. Robert Butler sold so many of her large abstracted and energetic dancers that his award was more than well paid back.

Ryan became known and collected for her abstracted dancers and nudes in her region, and became a stable artist at a small Pleasanton gallery, Art of Presentation, as well.

When the Robert Butler Gallery had to close for personal reasons, she eventually took a job managing the Bothwell Arts Center in 2006 and helped change the face of the arts in Livermore, giving over 60,000 people arts experiences; functioning as the driving force behind many exhibitions and arts festivals; and providing the arts community with 25 affordable working visual arts spaces.



Throughout her years managing the Bothwell, Ryan continued to paint and sell, opened a small studio gallery, and tried new methods and materials in her figurative explorations. Then she tried figurative using a newer medium called Liquitex Acrylic Pouring Medium.

The new medium quickly became a fascination, absorbing a lot of her studio time in experimentation, testing how the different pigments react to it, and learning to master her own technique of pouring. Working this way requires an ability to work quickly and boldly before the layers dry and a willingness to ruin a piece in the pursuit of imperfect perfection.

The Flow paintings, as she calls them, began as a series of bold colorful abstractions on cradled board based on creating movement and then halting it to dry. Ryan began exhibiting them to enthusiastic response in late 2014.

Ryan's newest works are a series of abstracted underwater scenes that catch the eye and tantalize viewers with a sense of swimming, diving and snorkeling, deep beneath the surface, still leaving much to the imagination, and always imbued with the sense of movement that has always been the calling card of a work by Linda Ryan.

