

Bridget Galway

The Art of Leonarda Boughton

One evening while at a cocktail party hosted by artist Michael Costello I had the opportunity to meet Will Kerr, an artist and owner of Gallery X1V Boston. We spoke for some time, beginning with how we came to know Michael and other interesting things related and unrelated to art.

The following morning I checked out Gallery X1V's website. I could see an exhibit of large drawings of trees. I could tell even with my limited view that they were beautiful, unique in composition, and skillfully rendered. I was intrigued to find out who the artist was.

I clicked on the artist listing hoping to be able to see them in full measure, there I found out that Leonarda Boughton was the artist. I wanted to know more so I contacted Will Kerr and asked him if he would introduce me to Leonarda. He told me of a web site where I could read a review of her art and view a video in which he gives a tour of a larger exhibit of her drawings and paintings. The depth and breadth of her art was astoundingly beautiful.

I called Will and asked him how I could meet her to see if she would be interested in having an exhibit on the Wilderness House Literary Review website. He put me in touch with her.

After a couple of emails and engaging phone calls we made a plan to meet. I arrived at a building which seemed to be in its final stage of construction. I called her from my cell and she came down to greet me. She walked swiftly towards me with a welcoming smile. I felt immediately comfortable in her presence.

I was amazed to find that she designed the lobby of the building and needed to be there to oversee the work that was being done. When I entered the building the light and space was open and inviting and I wondered if it was going to house studio space for artists.

BG: Will this be used for studio space for artists?

LB: No, it's a condominium building.

BG: How do you know how to design the layout of a living space, have you gone to school for architectural design, also?

LB: No, but I have always loved architecture. Designing a space is not so different from creating a painting~ it requires similar skills. A strong sense of composition or structure and a solid understanding of materials. I approach an interior space as an artist, trying to see what it needs in order to be brought to its full potential.

We entered the room where her drawings and paintings stood against the walls. They were amazing, striking, and at the same time calming in nature. I thought how wonderful it would be to sit quietly alone taking in their presence.

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BG: What is the artistic process like for you?

LB: It's a bit like chasing a carrot. I'm always learning and it seems that no matter where I am in the process, getting what I envision onto the canvas is just a step out of reach. I never quite grasp it. Keeps me striving~ and humble.

BG: What artists have influenced or inspired your art?

LB: Lately I've been thinking about Gregory Gillespie and Tabitha Vevers- I think about them a lot- the extreme quality of their work, the developed personal language and complete mastery of materials. Gregory died not too long ago but Tabitha is around and showing. I admire them greatly. Historic artists; Michelangelo, Van Der Weyden, Gustav Klimt ... so many others. I love versatile painters that constantly reinvent themselves because I feel a kinship with them. Rainer Maria Rilke and Wendell Berry (poets) have also been a constant influence.

In her paintings of people, Leonarda is able to capture the experience and emotion of her subjects. Her drawings of trees imbue the essence of their spirit, a spirit that soothes the soul. Leonarda's paintings create a sense of intimacy with their audience. You feel as though you are brought into her paintings either through the peace that her trees emulate, or through how she captures the point of view of the people she chooses to paint.

As an artist, I could not help but ask her how she achieved this or that, what mediums she used? She was very open to sharing her techniques. Her ability to give of herself is natural to who she is, because not only is she an artist and designer, she is also a teacher of fine art.

Along with her classes in Boston, she has become affiliated with Thomson Family Adventures, a travel company where she offers Art Tours to exotic places such as Costa Rica and Tanzania. This summer, she will travel to Costa Rica to work with a group in the Guanacaste area designing a mural for that community. A project created to bridge the gap between the expat community and the locals of that area. Something near and dear to her heart having spent part of her childhood there.

I wanted to spend more time to have the opportunity to learn more about her and her art. She also wanted to continue our meeting, but needed to get back to attending to the work that was being done on the building.

Leonarda is an artist of the highest caliber; it is a privilege to exhibit her masterpieces alongside the writers and poets of Wilderness House Literary Review.

Included at the bottom of the exhibit will be the link to another review and the video tour. I strongly encourage you to read the article and view the video. Anything that is lacking in this introduction will be represented within those two sources.

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LEONARDA BOUGHTON is a local Boston artist involved in many different facets of art, from painting to design and education. She studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Boston University. She began developing her artwork in Mexico where she lived for 7 years. Now back in the US, she continues to exhibit and teach- both nationally and internationally.

Man feels himself isolated in the cosmos because he is no longer involved in nature and has lost his emotional "unconscious identity" with the natural phenomena. No river contains a spirit, no tree the life principle of man, no snake the embodiment of wisdom, no mountain cave the home of a great demon. no voices now speak to man from stones, plants and animals, nor does he speak to them believing they can hear. His contact with nature has gone and with it has gone the profound emotional energy that this symbolic connection supplied." – Carl Jung



Amante

**unryo paper, acrylic
and oil on canvas**

78"x 39" (diptych)



Leoli
graphite and conte on paper
71"x 50"



The Hollow
graphite and conte on paper
40"x 32"



Entwined
graphite and conte on paper
50.5"x 35.5"



Sitting in a Beech
graphite and conte on paper
71"x 50"



Luna Moth
oil on canvas
60"x 40"



Brook's Beech
oil on canvas with white gold leaf
7'x 5'

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Birch 1
oil on canvas
48"x 36"



Birch 2
oil on canvas
48"x 36"

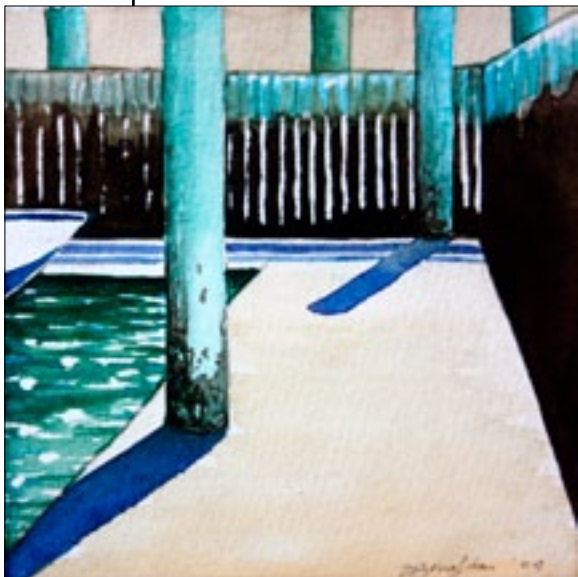
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Harbour 1
watercolor on paper
4" x 4" (unframed)



Harbour 2
watercolor on paper
4" x 4" (unframed)



Harbour 3
watercolor on paper
4" x 4" (unframed)



Ferns

watercolor, pen and ink on paper

4"x 4" (unframed)



Charles St.
oil on canvas with silver leaf
6'x 6'



First Travels
oil on canvas
53"x 36"



Departure
oil on canvas
58"x 44"



The Weaver
oil on canvas
68"x 44"

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Leonarda Boughton

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/arts/x702670133/Branching-out-at-Framinghams-Gallery-XIV>

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Education

1988-1985 School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
1985-1983 New England School of Art and Design, Boston, MA
1983-1981 Boston University, Boston, MA

Exhibitions

Selected Group Exhibitions

2010 Sea Dogs, Shipwreck Museum, Nantucket, MA
2009 Boston Arts Festival, Boston, MA
2009 Gallery XIV, Framingham, MA
2008 Gallery XIV, Boston, MA
2006-2005 Jane Deering Gallery, Annisquam, MA
2006 Jupiter People, New England Gallery Concert Series, Boston, MA
2005 Redbrick Art Gallery, Beverly, MA
2004 Chase Gallery, Wilmington, North Carolina
2003 Gifts of Summer, Chase Gallery, Boston, MA
2002 Red Clay Exhibit, Ritz Carlton, Boston, MA
2001 X Gallery, Nantucket, MA
2000 The Colour of Sound, Performance Painting, Boston, MA
1998 The Horse Show, Chase Gallery, Boston, MA
1997-1996 Galeria Misrachi, Mexico, D.F.
1996 Club Americano 207, Cuernavaca, Mexico
1995-1994 Galeria Kin, Mexico, D.F.
1994 Feria de Arte, Colegio Americano, Mexico, D.F.
1994 Galeria Juarez, Mexico, D.F.
1993 Espectro de la Naturaleza, Galeria Rivera, Mexico, D.F.
1990 War and Peace Show, Space Gallery, Boston, MA
1987 School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
1985 Galerie Latour, Grenoble, France

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Selected Solo Exhibitions

2010 Tree Drawings, Gallery XIV, Framingham, MA
2005 Creation, Series of Frescoes, Wellesley, MA
2003 New Gallery Concert Series, St. Peter's Church, Weston, MA
2002 NGCS, Premiering Music Composed for Drawings, Boston, MA
2002 Torsos, Chase Gallery, Boston, MA
2000 Portals, Chase Gallery, Boston MA
1997 Galeria Kin, Mexico, D.F.
1996 Club Americano 207, Cuernavaca, Mexico
1996 Obras Oniricas y Terrenas, Tepoztlan, Mexico
1995 Onirica, ITAM, Mexico, D.F.

Teaching Experience

2010 Abriendo Mentes, Guanacaste, Costa Rica
2010-2004 The Hill House, Boston, MA
2010 North Bennet St. School, Boston, MA
2010 Boys and Girls Club, Charlestown, MA
2009 Boston University- Summer Session, Boston, MA
2009 Thomson Travel, Costa Rica Art Tour, Costa Rica
2009-1990 Ongoing Private Classes in Art Education
2007 Intensive Course on Narrative Painting, Merida, Mexico
2006-2004 Redbrick Art Center, Beverly, MA
2004-2000 Artist-in-Residence, Celebrity Series, Boston, MA
2003-2001 The Boston Renaissance Charter School, Boston, MA
2003-2001 The Advent School, Art Residencies, Boston, MA
1998 Alianza Hispana, Art Specialist, Roxbury, MA
1997-1990 Liceo de Artes Plasticas, Mexico

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Private Collections

Mikhail Gorbachev, Moscow, Russia

Thomas Langman, Washington, D.C.

Richard and Beverlee Brooks, Wellesley, MA

Christiane and Joseph Alsop, Peabody, MA

Museum Exhibitions

2010 Shipwreck Museum, Nantucket, MA

2006 Peabody Essex Museum

1995 Los Espectros del Romanticismo, Museo Jose Luis Cuevas, Mexico

1994 Alas, Museo Domestico, Mexico, D.F.

Awards

1988 New Forms Regional Initiative Award, New England Foundation for the Arts, Boston, MA

1985 Student Achievement Award, School of the Museum of Fine Arts