

LESLIE ALLEN

Leslie Allen (b.1954) is an American artist whose intrinsic connection with the Rio Grande U.S./Mexico border defines and inspires her every stroke. Born in New Mexico and raised in El Paso, her work has been described as “high-octane abstraction” for its daring colors and gestures that mimic the diversity of the vast desert landscape, as well as the tensions of a political border. Her works knit together an expression of the region’s deluge of contrasts: crimson southwestern sunsets to the blackest of nights, a blistering, still heat against the vibrant buzz of Juarez, delicate cactus blossoms, and the majestic Franklin Mountains.

That Allen’s improvisational style is also driven by music is no coincidence; she is an impassioned cellist in the College of Marin Symphony Orchestra. She uses brushes, knives, brayers and blades with outstretched arms to compose each piece; whether geometric, lyrical, figurative or monotype it all coalesces into an oeuvre of expressive abstraction.

Allen credits Mark Adams (watercolorist and master weaver), Thomas Marsh (classical sculptor), and Chester Arnold (illusionist oil painter) as her greatest mentors. It was Arnold who urged her to abandon the delicate watercolors of her earliest exhibits for the bolder commitment of oils, and in doing so she unleashed the full amalgam of her borderland culture, her penchant for small-plane topographical exploration, and her rich life experiences.

Today, Leslie Allen lives and works in Sausalito, California. She is represented by Kennedy Contemporary in Newport Beach and Seager Gray Gallery in Mill Valley. Her works reside in private and public collections throughout the United States as well as in London, Toulouse, Dusseldorf, Berlin, and Bern.

“Leslie’s ignition was brilliant, and the subsequent years of work have continued to amaze and delight lovers of ‘high-octane’ abstraction.”

~Chester Arnold, illusionistic oil painter

“Allen’s works are sophisticated paintings with a keen sense of color, gesture and division of space. Clearly influenced by California painters Richard Diebenkorn and Frank Lobdell, Allen’s lyrical sense and gestural marks also relate her work to the New York abstractionists, especially the paintings of Joan Mitchell.”

~Donna Seager, gallerist



(b.1954) Alamogordo, NM

Lives and works in Sausalito, CA

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Newport Beach, CA - Kennedy Contemporary

Mill Valley, CA - Seager Gray Gallery

ART EDUCATION

1993 - Present, College of Marin, Kentfield, CA, Fine Arts, Music

1989 - 1992, Academy of Art, San Francisco CA, Fine Arts

1982 - 1989, College of Marin, Kentfield CA, Fine Arts

1978 - 1980, UCSD San Diego CA, Graphic Arts

2007 - 2011, Summer Printmaking Intensives at Crown Point Press, San Francisco CA

1982 - 2011, Various Painting Mentors and private teachers in CA, NM, TX, and Europe

CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Aiken-Sinaiko Law Offices, Sausalito, CA

Alliance Capital Management, San Francisco CA

Boeger Winery Inc., Placerville CA

Phillip Burton Federal Building, San Francisco CA

Doral Park Avenue Hotel, New York NY

Espire Communication, Tulsa OK

Federal Home Loan Bank, San Francisco CA

Green Music Center, Rohnert Park CA

Hansen Bridgett, San Francisco CA

Inn at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach CA

Law Offices of J. Frank George APC, Fairfax CA

Lawrence Bragman Law Office, San Rafael, CA

Monterey Tides Hotel, Monterey, CA

Murphy Pearson Bradley & Feeny, San Francisco CA

Tropicana Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV

WestAmerica Bank, Sausalito, CA



EXHIBITIONS

2024

COLOR CRUSH: Leslie Allen + Terri Froelich, Solo Exhibition at Kennedy Contemporary, Newport Beach, CA

Park Club x Kennedy Contemporary, Group Exhibition, Costa Mesa, CA

The Color Red, Group Exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2023

Spotlight: Leslie Allen + Paula Valenzuela, Arc Gallery @ The Infinity, San Francisco, CA

Minding Paint, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2022

24 x 24, Group Exhibition at Kennedy Contemporary, CA

Point~Counterpoint, solo exhibition, Kennedy Contemporary, Newport Beach, CA

Abstract Visions: a virtual exhibition from our collection of abstract artists, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2021

Group exhibition, Ruby Living Design, Mill Valley, CA and Menlo Park, CA

"Time and Tide", Group exhibition by ICB Artists at the US Army Corps of Engineers Bay Model Visitor Center, Sausalito, CA

"Art in the Abstract", Group exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley CA

2020

"Panic", juried exhibition, O'Hanlon Art Center, Mill Valley, CA

Group exhibition, Ruby Living Design, Mill Valley, CA and Menlo Park, CA

Group exhibition, Ted-X Marin, Innovator Showcase, Marin County, CA

2019

"Fresh Marks", group exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

"Leslie Allen: Capacious Language", solo exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

"All in the Family", group exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2018

"Gold", ICB Artists group exhibition, Gallery 111, Sausalito CA

"Feast of Colors", O'Hanlon Art Center, group exhibition, Mill Valley, CA

"Beyond Words", group exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

"Marin County Honors ICB Artists", group exhibition, Marin Civic Center, San Rafael, CA

2017

"Leslie Allen: Abstractly So", solo exhibition, Vedder Price/Arc Gallery, San Francisco, CA

"Markings", abstract group exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley CA

"Abstraction: Line, Plane, Color", group exhibition, Gallery 111, Sausalito, CA

"Love on the Edge", group exhibition, Gallery 111, Sausalito, CA

2015

"Contemporary Lyrical Abstraction", group exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley CA

"Leslie Allen: Fresh Paint", solo exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley CA

2014

"All in the Family", group exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley CA

Aqua Art Miami, Seager Gray Gallery

artMRKT San Francisco CA, Seager Gray Gallery

Marin MoCA Altered Book Show, Novato CA

2013

"Leslie Allen: Cadenza", solo exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley CA

Context Art Miami, Miami FL, Seager Gray Gallery

artMRKT San Francisco CA, Seager Gray Gallery

2012

"Leslie Allen: New Paintings", solo exhibition Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley CA

artMRKT, San Francisco CA, Seager Gray Gallery

Aqua Art Miami FL, Seager Gray Gallery

"Mild to Wild" group exhibition, Gallery 111, Sausalito CA

"Go Figure" group exhibition, Gallery 111, Sausalito CA

2011

Inaugural Exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley CA

Marin MoCA, Altered Book Show, Novato CA

Summer Art Salon, Donna Seager Gallery, San Rafael CA

"Genius is Mysterious", Projekt30.com juried online exhibition

2010

"Drawings: Line to Shadow: Baker's Dozen", Marin Civic Center, San Rafael CA

"For Paint's Sake", solo exhibition, Donna Seager Gallery, San Rafael CA

"Surface/Tension: H2O", group exhibition, Bay Model Visitors Center, Sausalito CA

2009

Group exhibition, Donna Seager Gallery, San Rafael CA

"De-Construct", group exhibition, Gallery 111, Sausalito CA

"Taking the Plunge", solo exhibition, Donna Seager Gallery, San Rafael CA

"Does Size Matter", group exhibition, Gallery 111, Sausalito CA

"Secrets", group exhibition, Artisans, San Rafael CA

2007

Projekt30.com November 2007, juried online exhibition

"Variations on a Hue", Artisans Gallery, San Rafael CA

Projekt30.com November 2007, juried online exhibition

2006

Projekt30.com July 2006, juried online exhibition

"Ebb & Flow", juried group exhibition, Sausalito Arts Commission, Sausalito CA

2005

"Under the Influence", two-person exhibition, First Presbyterian Church, Sausalito CA

2004

"Dichotomies", solo exhibition, Eclexion, Mill Valley CA

"Small Paintings" Shoe Envy, solo exhibition, Mill Valley CA

2003

Group Exhibition, Jessica Hall Associates, Larkspur CA

2002

"Abstractly" juried group exhibition, O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, Mill Valley CA

Juried group exhibition, Sausalito Bay Model, Sausalito CA

2001

"Quirkies", solo exhibition, Mill Valley Library, Mill Valley CA

1999

"All My All", Mill Valley City Hall, Mill Valley CA

1996

College of Marin, Monotype Marathon + Auction, Kentfield CA

1995

Juried group exhibition, College of Marin Gallery, Kentfield CA

1990

Juried group exhibition, Civic Plaza, Taos NM

1989

"It Figures", group exhibition, Academy of Art, San Francisco CA

1988 - 2008

Annual ICB Winter Open Studios, Sausalito CA

1986

Stackhouse Gallery, solo exhibition, San Francisco CA

1986

"See, Hear, Speak", three-person exhibition, Indian Valley College Gallery, Novato, CA



1982

Solo exhibition, Rogers & Wells, San Diego CA

1979

Solo exhibition, Edward J. Schwartz Federal Courthouse, San Diego CA

1976

Juried group exhibition, Edward J. Schwartz Federal Courthouse, San Diego CA

1975

Solo exhibition, Mission Hills Yoga Institute, San Diego CA



AFFILIATIONS

Studio 300A Art, Owner (2017-)

Studio 300A Art + Architecture, Partner (2005 - 2016)

College of Marin Symphony Orchestra, Cellist (2016-)

Marin Arts Council, Board Member (2011-12)

ICB Artists Association, Founding Board Member, Treasurer (2007-)

Sausalito Arts Commission, Commissioner-Chair (2004-07)

Sausalito Arts Commission Public Art Advisory Group Member (2004-)

Headlands Center for the Arts, Member (2000-)

El Paso Artists Association (2005-)

Leslie Allen Fine Art, Owner (1989-2005)

JUROR, CURATORIAL, SYMPOSIA

2018

"Feast of Color", O'Hanlon Art Center, Juror, Mill Valley, CA

2017

"Line, Form, Color", Symposium Speaker, Gallery 111, Sausalito CA

2016

"Milley Awards", Juror, Mill Valley, CA

El Paso Arts Association, Awards Judge, Arts International, El Paso TX

2014

El Paso Arts Association, Juror, Arts International, El Paso TX

Marin Open Studios Gallery, Annual exhibition Co-Curator, Corte Madera CA

2013

Marin Open Studios Gallery, Annual exhibition Co-Curator, Corte Madera CA

2012

Marin Open Studios Gallery, Annual Exhibition Co-Curator, San Rafael, CA

2010

Mill Valley Falls Arts Festival, Juror, Mill Valley CA

2008

"Secrets," Juror, Artisans Gallery, San Rafael CA

2007

"Monochromatic," Juror, Artisans Gallery, San Rafael CA

2006

"Ebb & Flow" Juror, Sausalito Arts Commission, Bay Model Visitor Center, Sausalito CA



2003

Sausalito Arts Commission Annual Exhibition, Juror, City Hall, Sausalito CA

1998

Artisans Gallery, New Member Juror, Mill Valley, CA