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Come in...and be captivated...

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Artists Featured in this Issue

Linda Bigness

Linda Bigness is an internationally exhibited artist who maintains a gallery/studio in Syracuse, New York. Her work has been exhibited in several prestigious solo and group shows that have involved notable jurors such as art critic Clement Greenberg, Ivan Karp, director of OK Harris Gallery in NYC, and Tom Piche, director of the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art. In addition, Bigness' large-scale paintings are often selected and commissioned for corporate and residential clients, including the Turning Stone Resort, Merrill Lynch Corporation, Haylor, Freyer and Coon, and Bausch and Lomb. She continues to exhibit professionally at several venues with artwork featured frequently at the Nan Miller Gallery in Rochester, NY.

Presently she is working on her latest book and exhibition about abstract art and the contemporary processes used by working artists today. Part of the research for this book is taken from the workshops she teaches and her oil painting and mixed media collage experience. For over 30 years, Bigness has used her expertise to



share with others the unique beauty and processes of her chosen medium through writing, teaching and professional exhibits.

Her first book, *Paint It, Tear It, Create It* offered the reader insight into visual abstract thinking through the process of collage into painting. She continues to explore the abstract through surface manipulation using encaustics and oil and is currently working on a new series, the "Journey Stones Revisited," that reflects her extensive travels through the United States and Europe.

<http://www.bignessart.com/index.html>

C. Michelle Olson

A published author, poet, and photographer, writing and photography have always been passions of mine.

San Diego is a place that has left a beautiful imprint in my heart. I love to capture all the mystical wonder of a city that reflects love and happiness by the marvelous surroundings. My writing is then inspired by the simple beauty of a photograph.

Publications including *The Write Place At the Write Time* and *Everything Coronado* regularly feature my photography. The Rancho San Diego Library has hosted events featuring regional artists in both January and April of this year that have included my work. I have also donated art for auction to support animal advocacy causes in the community.

As a professional photographer, I am always updating myself on the latest photographic information and techniques, keeping myself well-educated to offer cutting-edge photography to my clients.



<http://www.cmichelleolson.com/Home.html>

Christopher Woods

Christopher Woods writes fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays. He is the author of *THE DREAM PATCH*, a lyrical novel about a Texas family during the 1940s. His collection of prose poems and brief fictions, *UNDER A RIVERBED SKY*, was published by Panther Creek Press. His collection of stage monologues for actors and actresses, *HEART SPEAK*, was published by Stone River Press.

His work has appeared in over four hundred publications in the U.S. and in fourteen foreign countries. These publications include *Columbia*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *Confrontation* and *Glimmer Train*.

His plays have been produced in Houston, Ft. Worth, Memphis, Minneapolis, Providence, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale and Santa Fe.

He is also a photographer, and his work has appeared in dozens of publications including *Narrative Magazine*, *Best Fiction*, *Deep South*, *Glasgow Review* and *Public Republic*.

He has received a grant from the Mary Roberts Rinehart Foundation. He has received residencies at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming and the Edward Albee Foundation in New York. He lives in Houston where he has taught creative writing workshops at Rice University Continuing Studies Program, The Women's Institute, and by correspondence. Christopher lives in Houston and in Chappell Hill, Texas.



Susan Gottlieb

Susan Gottlieb is a published author, poet, and artist that began painting late in life. As so many women of her time, she was busy working and raising three children, with all the attendant duties of motherhood, household chores and career challenges. Upon retiring from her career, some of the realities of her earlier life began to awaken her emotions. At a young age Susan had lost her mother and father, and after retiring she again suffered a great loss, the premature passing of her best friend and sister. Two years later her brother passed away, and shortly thereafter her oldest sister died. It was after that time of loss, and sensing a feeling of emptiness, Susan knew the time had arrived to express her feelings, as they were emotionally tormenting her. Writing poems and stories, relating to her history and emotions, became her way of dealing with the grief and loss.

Susan's stories and poems were published in *The Journal of Humane Medicine and the Medical Humanities*, *Static Movement*, *Tempered Mindscape* and the *Journal of Literature, History, and Ideas from the Sea*.

Her paintings have helped her to recognize a life buried deep within, becoming a catharsis for dealing with loss. Susan felt that she had neither the time nor the ability to write and paint, however, she has proven herself wrong, and truly appreciates that she can now share her stories and paintings with others.

Susan lives in Tomball, Texas where she works with a variety of mediums from collage, watercolor, and oil. She continues her writing, and volunteers in a reading program at a learning activity center for people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.



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