

## ARTIST BIOS

[www.rhballard.com](http://www.rhballard.com)

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**LYNN MEHTA** It is important for me to create a painting which is interesting both up close and further away to engage the imagination. Inspiration is something which is honest to me and something which I believe makes a universal connection. Color, composition, and paint handling are key elements in my paintings and tools for my expression. The fluidity and flexibility of oil paint is well-suited to my creative

process. When I paint, I connect with changing light, the color of my surroundings, and movement. I focus on abstract shapes and forms creating a whole.

I grew up along the Pacific Ocean in California and have painted for as long as I can remember. I attribute my love of the outdoors and different places to childhood days at the beach, summer backpacking and camping trips, living in India when I was 10 years old, and miles of traveling. Both new and familiar landscapes inspire me. Beaches, cities, mountains, farms, rivers, deserts, docks trigger my imagination.

My love of art has been my life. I was influenced by the art of my mom who painted the California landscape and encouraged my interest in art by setting up my toddler easel outdoors, enrolling me in art classes, giving me personal instruction, and purchasing art supplies for me.

**GISELLE GAUTREAU** Giselle creates contemporary landscape paintings in oil and encaustic. She received her MFA in Painting from Virginia Commonwealth University and has a BFA in Painting from Maine College of Art. Giselle has received numerous awards for her work, including a Professional Artist Fellowship from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and exhibited her work for 20+ years and has had multiple solo shows. Her work is in public, private and corporate collections in Canada, the United States, Europe and Japan. The artist states: "In my work I explore my ideas of memory of place, the landscape and ecology. Endlessly influenced by nature, my paintings explore the intersection of color and atmosphere along with the impact of what nature inspires. I paint with numerous layers of oil or encaustic paints, using both opaque and translucent layers to achieve a sense of depth, atmosphere and luminosity. The landscape for me is both visual inspiration and sometimes a metaphor for loss, change, resiliency and adaptation. For me, painting the landscape is a reminder of our connections to it.

**MEG WALSH** Former National Geographic editor and prolific painter, Meg Walsh, has an eye for the lush hues that dapple the world around us. Painting full-time since 2004, Walsh has honed her craft over the last eighteen years and earned several accolades and awards for her work. A member of the American Impressionist Society, her paintings are masterful examples of impressionist and postimpressionist color schemes. Walsh's command of these techniques elevates her work into dreamy renditions evoking the nostalgia of a life lived with rose-colored lenses. Dripping with dimension and life, Walsh welcomes viewers into a moment and invites them to share in mindful appreciation of the space around them. R.H. Ballard Gallery has been proud to continue hosting Walsh's artwork for more than a decade. Her work is

also featured in museums and private collections, showcasing her plein-air landscapes, animals, and still life paintings. Walsh earned a place in the book 100 Plein Air Painters of the Mid-Atlantic, as well as awards from juried plein-air competitions, cementing her prowess amongst great artists in the region.

**ROBERT H. BALLARD** Robert creates a series of abstract images relating to his love of color and composition. These are organic paintings that are not pre planned but evolve as they go forward. His paintings are built up in layers of color and texture and start by creating a concept of a composition. This progresses organically until the painting is realized and shows itself to be finished. Since he has always worked in series, each painting builds from the last one in technique and color which allows the idea to evolve. Robert studied painting at San Francisco State University, where he received a BA degree and The California College of the Arts in Oakland, CA where he received his MFA. He spent over 40 years as a Director and Curator of public and private galleries across the globe, including founding the Govett-Brewster Gallery in New Plymouth, New Zealand and has exhibited work across the United States. He is included in numerous private and public collections. Since 1997, He has joined his wife Joan in owning and operating R. H. Ballard Shop & Gallery in Washington, VA

**JEANNINE REGAN** For over two decades Jeannine Barton Regan has exhibited her work in the Mid-Atlantic region as well as in the west. She has shown in many juried exhibitions and solo and group exhibitions. She lives and works in Charlottesville, VA. where she is a resident member of McGuffey Art Center, one of the oldest and most respected community art centers in the country. She has been the recipient of numerous awards including Best in Show, Virginia Watercolor Society, and was awarded the Alexander Nepote Award for Experimental Painting at the National Watercolor Society's exhibition in Los Angeles. Her painting was on tour with the National Watercolor Society's Touring Exhibition for one year, visiting cities across the country including New York, Chicago, Dallas and San Francisco. For the past decade the focus of her work has been encaustic, the ancient art of painting with hot, pigmented beeswax, first introduced by the Greeks in 300 BCE. Her paintings are in a number of public collections including New York Life Insurance Company, Region Ten Community Services Board, Martha Jefferson Hospital, and City Hall, Charlottesville, VA, Spotts- Fain Law Firm, and in private collections across the country, among them, many commissioned works.

**BRIDGETTE GUERZON MILLS** Bridgette Guerzon Mills is a mixed media artist whose work incorporates a variety of materials including photography, paint, encaustic, as well as fiber, textiles, and other reclaimed materials. Her artwork and journals have been published in magazines and books and her work has been collected in the United States and internationally. She currently resides in Towson, MD with her family. As a mixed media artist, encaustic is a versatile medium that allows her to create depth in layers and serves as a means for further exploration in both form and meaning. She combines her photography with encaustics to create a bridge between two worlds, the real and

the reconstructed. The canvas becomes a multilayered surface that speaks to both the visual and tactile senses. Her outdoor installations, often created using foraged or recycled materials, focus on environmental issues and seek to engage and educate the public about these concerns.

**LAURA HOPKINS** Laura Hopkins works in the tradition of the 19th century American Tonalists, painting expressive, atmospheric landscapes in oil. The ephemeral light of twilight, dawn, and evening, particularly in autumn and winter, serve as favorite motifs. Although Laura creates much of her work in the studio from memory and imagination, her painting process remains rooted in time spent outdoors drawing, painting, taking photographs, and appreciating the beauty of the natural world. These studies, drawings, and photos serve as a creative wellspring. Her intuitive, gestural approach leads to paintings that can vary from closely representative of a specific place to boldly imagined from an abstract start. Laura is largely self-taught, having come to painting late in life. She continues to explore the work of 19th century American Tonalists and to study with contemporary painters. Laura is a member of the Oil Painters of America, the American Impressionist Society, the Art League, Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters, the Loudoun Sketch Club, the Artists in Middleburg Gallery, and the Lyme Art Association. Her award-winning work has been featured in Elan Magazine and Middleburg Life.

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