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Meet Trailblazer Linda Kunik

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LOCAL STORIES



Today we'd like to introduce you to Linda Kunik.
Thanks for sharing your story with us Linda. So, let's start at the beginning and we can move on from there.
When my daughters were young, I became an art docent in the Beverly Hills school system. After seven years there I became a docent at LACMA but realized I wanted to make art more than just talk about it. I started drawing and studied watercolor in France and Italy. Wanting to explore conceptual art, I went to Otis College of Art and Design,

where I received my degree in 2006, starting my professional career.

Overall, has it been relatively smooth? If not, what were some of the struggles along the way?

If you want to be successful, it's always a struggle with lots of hard work and some luck. I started my career late in life, so I always felt I had to work much harder to catch up. Therefore, I honed my craft, added photography to my arsenal, and applied to as many exhibitions as I could. I started with California and added New York. As of this date, I have exhibited in Germany, Italy, France, Thailand, Peru and I have an upcoming exhibition in Japan. I have over 80 exhibitions to my credit, but I probably applied to thousands. It's a numbers game. Not everyone is going to like your work. It doesn't necessarily mean it's bad. It just means they don't get it, or it doesn't fit in with their ideas for a show. Perseverance, hard work, patience and a bit of luck.

What do you do? What do you specialize in?

I am a conceptual artist. I work with painting and photography and have referenced the land and environmental issues in most of my past work. Lately; however, I am departing a bit from that to explore perception and the human psyche. I am always interested in experimenting and improving my art and in the past couple of years have created new processes to show my work. The first new idea was combining painting and photography in the same piece. I would virtually cut out parts of the photo and paint the area to look like what was there before. There are some examples of this in the article. Secondly, I have been working with an emulsion process and photography, creating flowing images, which are also illustrated.

Besides my art career, I am most proud of Salon 2.0, which is

a salon I have hosted in my Beverly Hills studio for over 13 years. It was originally called O Salon and was started in 2006 as a meeting place for artists to network, socialize and engage in conceptual critique. After seven years of bringing together visual artists to discuss and critique art, it seemed time for a change—Salon 2.0 was the result. The focus was broadened to include other art forms—poetry, literature, and music were added to the mix.

Finding a mentor and building a network are often cited in studies as a major factor impacting one’s success. Do you have any advice or lessons to share regarding finding a mentor or networking in general?

My mentor was Scott Grieger, my art professor at Otis College of Art and Design, so I guess an art school is a good place to start. To start networking, I got on Facebook and started posting and also joined Linked In. I am also now using Instagram. Whatever social media you prefer, start using it.