

LINDA PEARLMAN KARLSBERG

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ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is about light: about the conflicts of light and shadow, desolation and beauty, and about the emotional responses light provokes.

I paint the resulting interplay of color and atmosphere, of one texture and shape against another, and the dynamic exchange between forms and line in space. But most essentially I portray places that suspend me in their stillness or turbulence and trigger in me a visceral emotional response. I search for those times and places where beauty is startling and suddenly present. In depicting these fleeting visual encounters I paint the arresting color relationships that flare and bring a momentary expressiveness to the enfolding, lush tranquility of still corners or the immense intensity of roiling skies. In these moments I depict, the light orchestrates a compositional balance and order interrupting abundant disarray.

The Water Lily and Lotus paintings are landscapes in a foreshortened space. In these transient visions of a particular time and light, I work to evoke the glow that emanates from blooms reaching for the sun; the magic and mystery in the water's surface; the multifarious lily pad and leaf forms that dance, twist, or plod across the surface.

In the Cloud paintings, I depict an amorphous and fluid subject: the elusiveness and heightened presence of the atmosphere's rendering in form, color, and light. The clouds' constant turmoil and ongoing metamorphosis index the tumultuous, ever-changing and inevitable forces of life. My paintings register ephemeral glimpses of fearsome power, grandness, stunning beauty, optimism, lightness, brooding darkness, softness, quiet, and sublimity.

All three series celebrate nature's splendor while evoking the fragility of life inherent in this perpetual reshaping and reordering, this cycle of abundance and loss. A bittersweet sadness tussles with the pleasure this natural beauty engenders. These paintings, so dependent on the light of the moment depicted, call up temporality and all it implies in nature, in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Each painting renders the beauty and ambivalence of these moments: to hold the melancholy engendered by this perpetual, metaphorical play of birth, growth and death; to impart the compositional magic of this random intersection of light, color, texture, shape and form; and to convey the awe of witnessing life's infinite creativity.

Engaged by the graphic complexity of these environments, I am by necessity a keen observer of the change wrought by light, weather, wind, seasonal changes, and human presence. Savage storms, invasive species, unmitigated development and the passage of time reshape and erase these microcosms. These are evanescent visions that I capture. Time spent with nature has heightened my appreciation of the interrelatedness of all things, deepened my respect and reverence for the earth, and awakened my solemn awareness of our place within it and the urgency of our responsibility to care for it.