

For Immediate Release: New York – November 27, 2013

Elisa Contemporary Art
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changing the world through art



Art from the Left Coast – a group show featuring West Coast and Pacific Island artists

Elisa Contemporary Art presents **Art from the Left Coast**. The exhibit opens November 29, 2013. It will run through January 26, 2014. As the winter approaches, we venture to California and the Pacific Islands to see refuge and a reprieve. Featured artists include:

Los Angeles flow artist, Kimber Berry
San Jose constructionist, Michael Buscemi
San Francisco minimalist, Jeffrey Palladini

Kauai painter, Carol Bennett
Big Island artist, Mike Field
Maui hyper-realists, Madeline & Peter Powell

Art from the Left Coast highlights include:

A Small Miracle of Circumstance by Kimber Berry, a recent painting from latest series, *Plastic Gardens*. In this series, Kimber addresses the ongoing diminishing natural environments. According to Kimber, "Amongst hundreds of thousands of miles of concrete and steel we feel a distance from nature and are compelled to create green spaces, oasis, parks and gardens of cut grass, pruned trees and waterfalls constructed of painted concrete rocks encircled by highly designed flower beds, essentially nature on our terms. I've constructed this series of paintings inspired by these plastic gardens."

Chaise #7 by Jeffrey Palladini from his Hotel series. According to Jeffrey, "Hotels are a microcosm. In my many years of travel, having spent countless days and nights in accommodations spanning the full spectrum from luxury to decrepitude, I have increasingly recognized the hotel as a crucible. Human emotion and interaction seem to be distilled, amplified, magnified, and intensified in this setting. I've experienced or been witness to sweet bliss, desperate loneliness, mind-numbing boredom, ecstatic joy, and unfettered sexuality – all on display in the close confines and forced intimacy of the hotel's guest rooms and public spaces."

Clear Color by hyper-realist artists Peter and Madeline Powell, a limited edition giclee canvas, signed and numbered, created from their original acrylic painting. *About their painting process:* For this husband and wife team, each painting starts with setting up and taking multiple reference photos of the subject matter. They mostly choose to concentrate on close-up, "larger than life" images of everyday things with a bit of a nostalgic feel, in this case Crayons. Once they have taken over 72+ photos, they select the one image. The canvas is stretched and Peter and Madeline are both involved in the painstaking layout of each painting, which is completely laid out in graphite on the canvas in detail, showing the shadows and highlights, as well as the folds, crinkles, lettering and reflections. The layout process can take several days, if not weeks to complete.

Then, the actual painting process begins with the smooth layering of the base colors, which in some cases is done with an airbrush. This allows for a very "flat" surface foundation without brush strokes. Each color is masked off separately and then the lettering is usually painted in with fine sable brushes. In some cases, an old style architectural ruling pen is used which allows them to fill the pen well with paint. With the base colors and lettering complete, the shadows and reflections are painted in, followed lastly with the highlights.

We will also be hosting a **special Holiday event for kids:**

- **Paper Construction Holiday Decoration workshop** inspired by Michael Buscemi artwork on **Saturday, December 14 from 3-5pm** *RSVP required*
- **What: Art from the Left Coast**
 - **Featured California Artists: Kimber Berry, Michael Buscemi, Jeffrey Palladini**
 - **Featured Pacific Island Artists: Carol Bennett, Mike Field, Peter and Madeline Powell**
- **When: November 29, 2013 through January 26, 2014**
- **Special Holiday Event for Kids:**
 - **Paper Construction Holiday Decoration workshop** inspired by Michael Buscemi artwork on **Saturday, December 14 from 3-5pm** *RSVP required*
- **Where: Elisa Contemporary Art, 5622 Mosholu Avenue (near 256th Street), Riverdale NY 10471.**

▪ **Hours: Friday/Saturday 10 am – 6 pm and by Appointment**

Meet the Artists:

Kimber Berry

Kimber is a Los Angeles artist, who is part of the "Flow Movement," a term coined by Art Critic (and curator) Peter Frank. Her artwork is vibrant and dynamic mixed media combining acrylics, resins and digitally altered photographs of her paint-strokes. As a native of LA, Kimber loves to blur the line between what is real and what is illusion.

She has received a lot of positive attention from art critics and curators on the West Coast and has been featured in solo and group shows in New York, LA and Atlanta. She has been part of recent exhibits at the Riverside Museum and the Huntington Beach Art Center in California. Kimber was recently featured in the magazines *Hamptons Cottages & Gardens*, *Ocean Home* and *Flaunt*. She also has an installation at Terminal 3 at LAX, which will be live through December.

Michael Buscemi

Micheal Buscemi was born in upstate New York. As a young child, Michael traveled all around the country with his family. In 1986 they made their home in San Francisco bay area.

According to California artist, Michael Buscemi, *"In a quest to get back to simplicity, I found myself exploring cut paper, and mixed-media collages. This process allowed me to build constructs and change composition with a rapid immediacy. These sculptural elements allow me to work in unison layer after layer; creating shadow, contrast, depth and movement. I love to work with sense of spontaneity; however I am also engaged in the highly repetitive meticulous process. I am inspired by the rhythm and forms that emerge from the shadow. I see this as the ever-changing evolution process."*

Michael began his white-on-white paper collage series in 2012. His work has become part of collections throughout California, New York and Europe.

Jeffrey Palladini

Jeffrey Palladini's unconventional portraits evoke feelings of sensuality and euphoria. While the San Francisco-based artist studied at California State University, it was in Florence that his true creative spirit was pulled forth from the beauty that surrounded him.

Now his modern figure paintings breathe life with vibrant colors and flowing brush strokes. Unlike many portrait paintings, Jeffrey minimizes the amount of detail and information allowing the viewer to gain intense suggestions of emotions in an instant. The simplicity is reminiscent of Alex Katz.

Palladini has exhibited his work around the U.S. and the world for over twenty years. His work is included in numerous private and corporate collections. Most recently, Palladini was honored with an SFMOMA SECA Award nomination, and was named one of San Francisco's Top 20 Artists in Asterisk SF Magazine's Art & Design Issue.

Carol Bennett

She is a native of Los Angeles, who has spent the last 20 years living in Hawaii in Kaua'i. She spends all of her time surrounded by water, and a great deal within it. I fell in love with her work when I first saw it.

Her work is a meditative journey through both the water and through life. Her fascination with the swimmer imagery began when she was living in Los Angeles and swimming at the LA Athletic Club. According to Carol, *"The floor beneath the pool, with its ethereal skylight, was an underwater observation room...used by Olympic coaches in the 1920's. I would feel like a voyeur, watching the swimmer's private time and drawing in their beauty. I became the swimmer I observed in the images I later created."*

Carol's work has been featured in many solo and group exhibits throughout California and Hawaii. She recently completed a commissioned glass canopy for the Hawaii State Art Museum, Sculpture Garden. She has been featured in *Hamptons Cottages & Gardens* and *Ocean Home Magazine*.

Mike Field

Mike Field was born in Guam, but soon found himself on the Island of Oahu, in Hawaii. He received a B.F.A. in 1990 from Loyola Marymount University, in Los Angeles, California.

Mike has come to truly embody all that is Hawaii and immersed himself in various island sports. Mike lives and paints high atop Mount Hualalai, on the Big Island, with his wife, Terry, and their two kids. You can find him late at night in his studio, among his sketches, canvases, surf boards, and canoe paddles.

Peter and Madeline Powell

It's not often that two individual artists are able to combine and express their talents to produce a single body of work. Hawaii artists, Peter and Madeline Powell have this rare creative alliance. Essentially, painting is a solo endeavor, yet the Powell's have accomplished a seamless blend of unity in their work.

Having met on Maui in 1976, they soon started working on each other's artwork and before too long, it developed into a natural way of approaching and completing a painting for them.

The Powells have exhibited their paintings throughout the US. They are in public and private collections including A&M Records (CA), BMW North America (GA) and The Slinky Corporation (PA).

About Elisa Contemporary Art

Elisa Contemporary Art represents a portfolio of both emerging and established contemporary artists, many of whom have work in the permanent collections of major museums and corporations.

Founded in 2007 by Lisa Cooper, Elisa Contemporary Art is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and collection of art as a way to enrich and heal our lives, our communities, and the world. The gallery opened in September 2008. Elisa Contemporary Art has participated in international art fairs in New York, Miami and the Hamptons, and curated over 12 public art exhibits in the Tri-State area. A portion of every gallery sale is donated to charities helping underserved children heal through art. We currently support Free Arts NYC and Arts to Grow. Owner Lisa Cooper also provides art consulting services.

Elisa Contemporary Art has been featured in a number of publications including Ocean Home Magazine, Hamptons Cottages & Gardens, New York Spaces, American Art Collector and The New York Times.

For more information, visit the website at www.ElisaContemporaryArt.com. The Riverdale Gallery is located at 5622 Mosholu Avenue, Riverdale NY 10471.

Contact:

Lisa Cooper

Owner, Elisa Contemporary Art

Lisa@ElisaArt.com

212.729.4974