



Linda O'Neill *Sunflowers and Cockscomb* 2013
Oil on Canvas - 30 x 30 inches

Recent Still Life Paintings

This array of new oils reflects my ongoing investigation into the genre of still life painting, a practice which I have pursued simultaneously with landscape painting for many years. Representational painting has for me always signified a commitment to the tradition of painting, and in the case of still life, the time honoured practice of painting from observation.

Each painting in this series is predicated upon a carefully composed arrangement of objects chosen for their visual appeal. Design elements such as form, colour, pattern and texture; transparency, opacity and reflective surfaces; organic and inorganic, found and acquired objects are all integral to the creation of a pleasing composition with the added inflection of a sensory narrative. I look for objects that are beautiful or perhaps poignant in a symbolic way; objects I hope will become a reference to something familiar for the viewer; the consummation to spark a memory - a sensory reactivation of another time, event, or experience in life.

Still Life painting has historically always taken a back seat to grander narratives of human achievement. Abstract painting in the last century pushed the object and figure ground relationship into an arena that has become even more questionable in today's art market. I have often been asked "why bother to paint, why not take a photograph"? Whilst I do take photographs, it is part of my preliminary process. There remains always a textual difference between what the

Please join me at

renann isaacs

contemporary art

*for the opening of **STILL LIFE** on
Saturday, September 13, 2014 from 2 to 6
pm, together with artists Jane Buyers,
Eileen MacArthur and Cathy Ross.*

*Exhibition continues until October 18,
2014.*

camera captures and what my eye envisions; what chemicals represent on paper and what I render on canvas with paint.

Painting unfolds in slow time. It is a meditative process wherein hand and eye and mind converge with the medium of oil paint, the mark of the brush, the sensual rendering of form, colour and texture, the delight in capturing the extraordinary world imbued in reflective objects, luminous surfaces, cast shadows and deep recesses, sumptuous tactile fabrics, delicious ripening fruit and seasonal blooms.

There is something human and humble and yet divine in celebrating this joy in the visual world before my eyes. It signifies a desire for beauty and creature comforts which I hope others may also take pleasure !

Linda O'Neill September 2014

Fall is fast approaching and there is plenty to celebrate! See below for a list of upcoming events including news of our acceptance into the Toronto International Art Fair - Art Toronto - Booth #1204.

To start off the Season, **renann isaacs contemporary art** will re-open with a reception on Saturday, September 13th from 2-6pm for the exhibition **STILL LIFE** featuring Jane Buyers, Linda O'Neill, Eileen MacArthur, and Cathy Ross. The works in this particular show "reactivate" what Art Historian Susan Douglas in her Canadian Art Magazine review of O'Neill's 2003 exhibition Slow Float "a traditional, formal understanding of painting (and drawing) so that form becomes the subject as well as the object of the work". Each piece in this exhibition is "about a way of seeing". And like Buyers "(who) approaches drawing as a sculptor - using slow, repetitive, obsessive labour to build surfaces" (text from her Berlin exhibition in 2013), it's the handling of the medium by all of these artists that makes the work in this exhibition so breathtakingly beautiful.

STILL LIFE

September 13th - October 18th

Jane Buyers, Eileen MacArthur, Linda O'Neill, Cathy Ross

ART TORONTO - BOOTH #1204

October 23rd - October 27th

**Cora Cluett, Paul Dignan, Melissa Doherty
Felice Koenig, Eileen MacArthur, Don Russell**

DRAWINGS IN BLACK AND WHITE

PAINTINGS IN GOLD

November 15th - December 24th

Ron Shuebrook, Seth

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