



Food & Friends by Linda Dumont

## Linda Dumont, Paraserialist

Dancing perfume bottles? Coffee-drinking fish? In this artist's studio, it's all part of the big picture.

Story by Tonyia Cone  
Photo by Korey Howell Photography

**IT WOULD BE HARD TO LEAVE LINDA DUMONT'S STUDIO IN A BAD MOOD. THE** vivacious colors and non-stop motion that jump from her canvases result in a positive energy that is nothing short of contagious.

Dumont's journey as an artist began after years of studying ballet, when she received a college scholarship in dance. At the end of her first year of school, through her minor in art she realized she was more interested in drawing and painting. "Art outshone the dance," Dumont said. "The discipline of dance has helped everything in my career."

After studying at Moore College of Art in Philadelphia and graduating from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in 1981, Dumont moved to Austin in 1984. At first, she worked out of an arts warehouse with 30 other artists. At that time, she said, her paintings competed with bluebells and longhorns. Unlike more photographic painters, Dumont had chosen to paint in an abstract style in order to better capture color, shape and emotion.

Just five years out of school, Dumont made one of her biggest sales when



Eros' Chaos by Linda Dumont

an advertising agency on Boston's swanky Newbury Street purchased 14 of her paintings. Since then, Dumont has gone on to produce work for businesses, government and private art collectors in 22 states and several countries. In Texas, Dumont's distinctive style can be spotted on many walls, including those of the Omni Austin Hotel, Southwestern University in Georgetown, Motorola, Austin-based Techxas Ventures, Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in San Antonio, the Dell Jewish Community Association of Austin and Austin's OBGYN North. Many of these pieces were commissioned.

Dumont's paintings have also brightened Saks Fifth Avenue at the Arboretum and her painted wooden cubes were once table centerpieces at the store's café. Renowned architect Winn Wittman hangs her paintings in his homes. In 1996, Dumont had a one-woman show at the International Museum of Art and Science in McAllen, TX, and she has been a featured artist at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum.

In addition to crossing geographic boundaries and being placed in settings ranging from boardrooms to bedrooms, the subjects in Dumont's paintings are very diverse. Her paintings feature things from Austin icons to amorous motorbikes to the homeless who live in her neighborhood. Dumont categorizes her work as "paraserialism," a hybrid of 'parallel' and 'serial,'" and

# KEEP AUSTIN ARTISTIC

The rise of Austin's visual arts scene is clear for all to see, whether it's in the opening of the magnificent Blanton, the bold new home planned by the Austin Museum of Art, the growth in support for the spunky Arthouse at the Jones Center, the number of private galleries throughout Austin, or the city's Art in Public Places program. All of this activity made us ask: Who are the women artists of note in Austin, and what are their stories? As you turn the following pages, you'll learn the diverse answers to those questions.

This month's Special Feature on visual artists is a typically Austin eclectic mix of native-born Texans and transplants from far beyond. Equally, while each has earned the right to call herself an artist, and thus taken her place in our group, their method of expressing that art also separates them from the group.

In Daryl Howard, we have a woman fascinated by collages and the Japanese art of printmaking – to such an extent that the Blanton curators requested she advise them on the museum's recent exhibit on the subject. In contrast to ancient Japanese printmaking, England native Juliet van Otteren is using the technology of modern photography to create fine art photography that has graced halls and walls across the globe. Melissa Miller is a talented painter, currently sharing her talents and insights with the next generation of artists as part of The University of Texas faculty. She specializes in zoomorphism (hands up for how many times today you've heard that term?) In Linda Dumont we discovered the art of paraserialism, as she blends the parallel and serial together. And speaking of blending, we turn to Jennifer Balkan, and her story of blending her training as a sociologist into her new career as a dedicated, full-time artist.

Now, we leave it to you to turn the pages and share in the full stories of these deeply talented women artists of Austin.

Special Feature Section Edited + Intro  
by Julie Tereshchuk



Jennifer Balkan



Linda Dumont



Juliet van Otteren



Melissa Miller



Daryl Howard



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