

Michelle Lavallée

Michelle Lavallée-Berti
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plein air painter
impressionist

Artist Biography

As a plein air artist, Michelle Lavallée witnesses the scene as she paints it on location. The luminosity and color of nature at various times of day, seasons, and climate serve as her source of inspiration. She loves to paint the beautiful light in the captivating landscapes that she finds in metro west Boston, where she lives, and in Québec, her ancestral home.

Her background in fine arts, language and music enriches her sensitivity as an artist. A Diploma graduate from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, she also has a B.A. with French major, music and art minors from Rivier College. Her professional work includes a career in teaching art, graphic design and in practicing fine arts as a painter. She has sixteen years experience as a certified teacher and art specialist at the Museum of Fine Arts, the Pilot School, l'École Bilingue and the French Association of Cambridge, Nashua and the Framingham Public Schools, Montrose School and others. Her work in graphic design involved creating artwork for Stone and Webster and Quincy Market. Her art organization experience includes the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the Rockport Art Association. She is currently an artist member of the Concord Art Association, the Wellesley Society of Artists, the Needham Art Association and a past president.

The artist has exhibited her award winning oil paintings, pastels and drawings in numerous solo and juried exhibits and group shows in galleries, museums, colleges, libraries, banks and corporations. Her art has been displayed in solo exhibits at the Parker Gallery of the James McNeill Whistler Museum in Lowell, the Copley Plaza in Boston, South Shore Bank and Middlesex Savings Bank in metro west, Market Street Associates in Brighton, the Village Gallery in Needham, the Swain Gallery in Dover, Needham Open Studios, the Dover Town Library, the French Library Alliance Française of Boston, the Musée Mauvide-Genest in Québec and the Loring Coleman Gallery at the Concord Art Association. Some of the juried exhibit locations in which her work was accepted and shown include the Zullo Gallery in Medfield, the Concord Art Association, the Boston Museum School and Stone and Webster in Boston. The group exhibit areas where she has shown her art include the Wellesley Free Library, Wellesley Community Center, the R.L. Gallery and Art Emporium Gallery in Needham, the Juliani Gallery and Babson College in Wellesley.

Being native francophone with links to Québec and France, she has associations in the francophone community through family, friends, and institutions of art, culture, and education. As a francophone artist, she displayed her work in a duo-solo invitational exhibit sponsored by La Fédération Féminine Franco-Américaine at the Copley Plaza, Boston. She illustrated and designed "Thanatopsis, Poème par William Cullen Bryant, Version Française de Rosaire Dion-Lévesque." At l'École Bilingue and the French Association of Cambridge she taught an art workshop for youth. Also, she was a guest artist in a televised Cultural Francophone Program presented by Richard Santerre, a French professor at Boston College.

Art Exhibits in Québec in which the artist has participated include the following: from June 30th to July 13th, 2008, she gave a solo exhibit of her plein air paintings at Le Musée Mauvide-Genest, Saint Jean, Île d'Orléans. In the summer of 2008, she displayed paintings at l'Atelier Aux Trois Portes, Saint Jean, Île d'Orléans.

In the United States, the artist displayed her art in a solo exhibit at the Coleman Gallery in Concord, Massachusetts from July 1st through August 14th, 2008. Her work was juried and selected for the exhibit by the Concord Art Association.

The artist gives classes, workshops and takes commissions. She can be reached at her studio, which is open to visitors by appointment.

Solo Exhibits

Loring Coleman Gallery, Concord Art Association, Concord, MA (juried). 2008
Musée Mauvide-Genest, Île d'Orléans, Québec, Canada (selected). 2008
French Library Alliance Française, Boston, MA (juried). 2007-2008
Dover Town Library, Dover, MA (invited). 2002, 2005, 2006
Swain Gallery, Dover, MA (selected), 2000. 2001
Middlesex Savings Bank, Needham, MA. 2003
Marino Center, Cambridge, MA. 2000
Market Street Associates, Brighton, MA (invited). 2000-2001
Village Gallery, Needham, MA. 1991
South Shore Bank, Needham, MA. 1988
Copley Plaza, La Fédération Féminine Franco-Américaine, Boston, MA (selected). 1980
James McNeill Whistler Museum, Lowell, MA (selected). 1976

Ongoing

Guest Artist, "Art Beat", Wellesley Cable TV. October, 2008
Sapas, solo exhibit, St. Andrew's Performing Arts Series, Wellesley, MA. Nov, 2008
14th Juried Exhibition, Zullo Gallery, Medfield, MA. October - November, 2008
("Sunset, Medfield", oil, 18x24, sold \$1400)
InsideOut, Fine Art Exhibit Sale, Boston Museum School. November, 2008
("Light Falling on Medfield House 1/5", limited Singer edition Iris digital print, signed 27x29, sold \$1200.)
Painting/Sculpture Juried Exhibition, Concord Art Association. January - February 2009
Natick Center for the Arts, Wellesley Society of Artists (WSA) Exhibit. February - March 2009
Paint the Town Live Auction, Concord Art Association. May 16, 2009
InsideOut, Fine Art Exhibit Sale, Boston Museum School. November 2009
("Purple Shadows 4/5", 31.5x31, sold \$1400)
Medici Artist, Boston Museum School. 2009, 2010
15th Juried Exhibition, Zullo Gallery, Medfield, MA. November - January 2010
Gallery viewing upon request: Lexington Showcase, Medfield Studio. 2009, 2010
WSA 75th year shows, Wellesley Free Library, Community Center. 2009 - 2010
Paint the Town Live Auction, Concord Art Association. May 15, 2010
Plein air painting in areas of Boston, Québec and the American West. Spring, Summer, Fall, 2010
International Contemporary Masters Exhibit III, Southern Nevada Museum of Fine Art, Las Vegas, NV. June 19-September 4, 2010

Selected Publications

International Contemporary Masters Volume III. Despina Tunberg, curator. Santa Barbara, CA: World Wide Art Books, 2010.
"Painter Captures the Beauty of Light," At the Galleries by Nancy Tuttle, The Sun, Lowell, July 17, 2008.
"Une Escapade dans la Nature," France Amérique, New York, December 2007.
"Art Exhibit by Michelle Berti," Dover Sherborn Press, March 2005.
"Oil Landscaping," by Greg Abazorius, Medfield Hometown Weekly, March 2005.
"Artists Open their Studios this Weekend," Needham Times, April 2004.
"Illuminated by Nature's Light," by Josh Wardrop, Middlesex News, December 2002.
"Berti Shares Beauty in Nature on Canvas," Norm Schrager, Dover-Sherborn Press, Dec. 2002.
"Paintings of Nature's Light," by Lauren Perkins, Dover Hometown Weekly, Nov. 2002.
"The Acre as Artist Sees It," by Marguerite Lyons, The Sun, Lowell, MA, October 1976.