

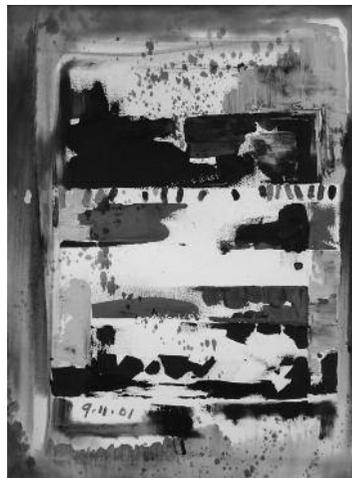
Arts

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Sesame Street: Muppet news. This iconic kid's program will shortly have a new addition. The show is set to unveil a new impoverished puppet named Lily, whose family faces issues. Lily will be revealed in a one-hour Sesame Street primetime special, *Growing Hope*, sponsored by Walmart and will air nationwide on October 9th. The special will share the awareness of hunger issues in the US, as well as strategies that have helped these families. There are said to be 17 million kids in the US who have limited or uncertain access to affordable



"Fear" by Linda Puiatti, 30 x 40 inches, oil on canvas, © 2001



"Anger" by Linda Puiatti, 30 x 40 inches, oil on canvas, © 2001



"Hope" by Linda Puiatti, 30 x 40 inches, oil on canvas, © 2001



"Sorrow" by Linda Puiatti, 30 x 40 inches, oil on canvas, © 2001

Artists Stephanie Anderson and Linda Puiatti make hard look easy

by C.C. Long

If anyone tells you that art is easy they have no clue what they are talking about. Beyond the reality that only one in a million make a living at their art and the constant rejection, criticisms and misplaced opinions from everyone from strangers to relatives not to mention dealing with the constantly changing landscape of everything artistic. Not to mention the breakneck speed of the changes in the economy, cultural milieu and political landscape that the artist comments upon all go to create a very difficult life choice.

But this isn't about the social economic impossibilities of making a living doing art but the actual craft of art that has its own inherent difficulties. Two artists that we are lucky enough to examine at shows at Gallery on The Green in Pawling and The Front Street Gallery in Patterson have chosen the hard way,

one with the medium she chooses and the other with the idea she is trying to express.

First, Stephanie Anderson using the maligned medium watercolor, shows her alchemic mastery of watercolors at the Gallery on The Green. Watercolors described by Willem de Kooning as, "the first and last thing an artist does." Mostly because it seems simple to begin with but it is truly the most difficult painting medium to work in. Stephanie seems to be mastering it with an energy that leaves most artists drowning. Selma Blackburn described the difficulty of painting with watercolor aptly, "in watercolor if you are not in trouble, then you're in trouble." Although watercolor is sometimes thought to be a watery grave to most painters it has also been described as "a swim in the metaphysics of life." Stephanie Anderson seems to be doing the backstroke with her seamless painting that glows with a beauty that is mesmerizing. Vincent van Gogh, who never mastered the medium,

described it as peering "into a splendid thing that expresses atmosphere and distance, so that the figure is surrounded by air and you can breathe." Viewing Stephanie's work allows you to breathe in this precious air.

At the Front Street Gallery Linda Puiatti pulls off another difficult achievement in painting, creating an emotional recording that is happening in front of you. Puiatti does this with her depiction of the tragedy of 9/11. She conveys the emotional travesty in four canvases, Sorrow, Anger, Hope and Fear. Not that emotions are hard to paint in a metaphorical sense but to paint them in the realm of observing and witnessing such an earth-shattering event as 9/11 is another matter. I tried to paint it and failed miserably and I've seen hundreds of attempts by painters to capture the emotionality and never have been impressed. In fact the only works, besides photography, that have moved me in their representation of this historic tragedy have been school kids paintings that wit-

nessed the event. In their innocence and clear sightedness they were able to honestly and objectively encase all that had occurred. Puiatti's paintings with their shimmering and transposed movements representing the iconic towers are chilling in what they display and convey. Puiatti makes the difficulty in capturing these emotions and images seem easy, but it's not.

Both of these artists have taken the most difficult medium and the most difficult emotions to display and give their audiences something to remember and be moved by and we are lucky enough to be a part of that audience.

C.C. LONG is a writer and artist who has written columns in various International and national art magazines including *Flux Magazine*, *Art Exit Magazine*, *unChin Magazine*, *Whitehot Magazine* and *uppereast.com*. He is currently illustrating a children's book series for Cheval Creative. He has been in over 50 one-man and group shows worldwide. His art can be seen and bought in print and poster format at globalgallery.com.