

JUDITH LINHARES TO RECEIVE ARTISTS' LEGACY FOUNDATION 2017 ARTIST AWARD

Unrestricted gift of \$25,000 given to an accomplished painter or sculptor where evidence of the hand is a significant factor in making art

Oakland, California—August 29, 2017—Artists' Legacy Foundation Executive Director Pauline Shaver announced today that painter Judith Linhares, noted for her lush, raw psychological paintings, is the recipient of the 2017 Artist Award. Launched in 2007, the unrestricted \$25,000.00 merit award is given annually to a painter or sculptor who has maintained sustained contributions to their field and where evidence of the hand is a significant factor in making art.



Judith Linhares, *Fortune*, 1993, oil on linen, 20 x 18 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco

Linhares (b. 1940) will use a portion of the award to underwrite the archiving of her life's work. Asked to comment on the hand in her body of paintings and drawings, she remarked: "The hand is under siege. But the process of drawing is a negotiation between the mind, the eye, and the hand. Drawing is placing something on a two-dimensional surface in relation to something else; it is putting a line in space." A native of Southern California, Linhares recalled that as a teenager she would look at the abstract paintings of Philip Guston at Los Angeles County Museum of Art and study the "chunky shapes" constructed from overlapping brushstrokes that made forms convey weight and mass. "Later," she said, "I wanted to make work that was bold for different reasons. I wanted to express a lived life with all its joys and sorrows. At the time I was a young mother and my life was deeply domestic."

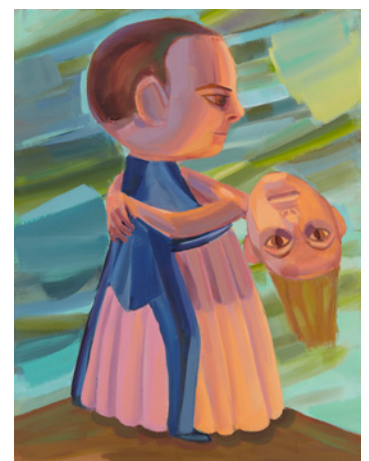
The 2017 panel of jurors included sculptor Linda Fleming; art critic, curator, and educator David Pagel; and Crocker Art Museum Associate Director and Chief Curator Scott A. Shields.

"Powerful," said Fleming. "You see in her paintings these really outrageous decisions. She breaks so many conventions that would otherwise be unacceptable if they were not so beautiful."

"Taut, juicy, and formally tough," said Pagel. "The way she applies paint, and her love of material—head and shoulders above many artists working today."

"Her subjects, in and of themselves, could become illustration if handled by a lesser hand, but Linhares is always a painter first," said Shields. "Once she lures the viewer in, the artist unleashes darker themes."

Linhares is renowned for her ebullient, metaphysical depictions of women and



Judith Linhares, *Dance II*, 2017, oil on linen, 33 1/2 x 25 1/2 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco



Judith Linhares, *Dog*, 2005, gouache on paper, 34 x 44 1/2 inches.
Courtesy of the artist and Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco

animals painted in bright brushstrokes, or as art critic Brooks Adams enthused, her “strange, luminous, hard-won pictorial universe.” Ken Johnson in *The New York Times* argued that Linhares is “an unacknowledged inspiration for many of today’s younger artists” using paint that she “applies with hedonistic, controlled abandon.” Art critic Jerry Saltz has called her paintings “mythic, airy” and “a deeply felt fairy-tale plane of their own.” Carly Berwick, writing in *ARTnews* on the intimacy and affecting quality of the artist’s paintings, said “But Linhares’s bulky, extravagant brushstrokes and rich, almost edible colors, while conveying plenty of emotion, are supremely unsentimental.”

About Judith Linhares

Born in Pasadena, California, Judith Linhares lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She earned her B.F.A. and M.F.A. degrees from California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, CA. In 1978, Linhares was included in the influential “Bad Painting” exhibition at the New Museum, organized by legendary curator Marcia Tucker. Since then, she has exhibited widely. In the early 1990s, a traveling survey, “Dangerous Pleasures: The Art of Judith Linhares,” toured museums and galleries on both coasts. She has participated in group exhibitions, including the recent “Order and Nature,” Anglim Gilbert Gallery at Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA and “State of the Art” at Parkland College, Champaign, Ill, curated by Gladys Nilsson. Linhares is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and has received multiple grants from the National Endowments for the Arts. Her work is held in many permanent collections, including the de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, NY.

She is represented by Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

About the Artist Award

In the late 1990s, painter Squeak Carnwath, sculptor Viola Frey, and community advocate Gary Knecht created Artists’ Legacy Foundation to encourage artists to think about their legacies and how their estates might support other artists. Viola Frey (1933 -2004) became a Legacy Artist after her death; her bequest launched the annual Artist Award, designed to encourage professional enrichment and allow recipients to spend more time in their studios.

Painters and sculptors are anonymously nominated and candidates are unaware that they are under consideration. Nominators and jurors are distinguished thinkers and makers with a depth of expertise in their milieus and fields. In 2016, on the release of the 10th Anniversary Artist Award video, Taylor Dafoe, writing in ARTINFO, said the “Artist Award [is] one of the more significant—though lesser-known—grants given to visual artists.” To view the seven-minute video and learn more about the pioneering, physically inventive, and tactile Artist Award recipients over the last decade, visit artistslegacyfoundation.org.

About Artists’ Legacy Foundation

Artists’ Legacy Foundation stewards the work of Legacy Artists and facilitates their posthumous philanthropy; recognizes outstanding painters and sculptors through awards and grants; and serves as an educational resource for artists, scholars, and the general public.

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