



ERIN COVEY REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Seventy of Victor Leger's landscapes from the last 11 years are featured at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. Many feature the Grand Canyon.

Artist focused on things as they are

Torrington teacher has exhibition of landscapes in New Britain

BY TRACEY O'SHAUGHNESSY
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Prior to the terrorist attacks of 2001, you might have called Torrington's Victor Leger a Robert Rauschenberg-like collage/minimalist.

It's hard to believe, standing in the midst of his crystalline landscapes, 70 of which are now on view at Central Connecticut State

University's art gallery. These cool, crisp ocean scenes, the gnarly coastline painstakingly articulated, and vivid, resplendent landscapes, each tree precisely defined, seem the antithesis of Rauschenberg's abstruse "combines." And they are.

After 9/11, Leger, Torrington High School's 2010-11 teacher of the year, made a conscious decision to reject

the vogue-ish post-minimalism he found self-conscious and presumptuous. "What I was doing was exciting," says Leger, 52, "but there was a lot of underlayers of meaning that only I got. Only 5 to 10 percent of people would invest their time into (understanding) that."

That work, says Leger, a