



**STANDARD
SPACE**

***Lisa Warren: Still Portraits / Family Landscapes
Painting from a World of One's Own***

2 December 2017 - 14 January 2018

Reception for the Artist: 2 December 5:30 - 8:00

Standard Space is pleased to present an exhibition of new paintings by Lisa Warren. The exhibition will be available for viewing Thursday - Saturday, noon - 5PM, and by appointment.

Hannah sits upright in a patterned yellow chair; Charlotte gazes effortlessly while opening a mysterious book; Chip contemplates a technology company; Russ surrounds himself with memorabilia from life; These are just a few of the characters that create Lisa's world before a vase of morning flowers distract during a coffee break. Characters and images from popular culture are interspersed throughout Lisa's autobiography, thus creating a world of one's own. Lisa's imagination takes flight with mysterious interiors from a fantasyland while these autobiographical and imagined paintings of daily life reflect the human condition while touching upon the times that we occupy through portraying the personal.

Lisa Warren is an artist based in Connecticut and New York. She earned an MFA from Yale University and a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). Ms. Warren was subsequently accepted to the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Recently, she was an Artist-in-Residence at the Vermont Studio Center and a Fellow at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts. Lisa was awarded a Hambidge Center Fellowship for the month of February, 2018, received a commission for the NU Perspectives Wall Mural Project at the NU Hotel in Brooklyn Heights in 2018, and is a new Board Member of Trestle Gallery in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

Standard Space is a gallery in Sharon, CT exhibiting contemporary artwork by emerging and mid-career artists working across diverse media. Director Theo Coulombe founded Standard Space in 2017 to engage a conversation between artists in the New York region and the community and environment in Litchfield County. For images or further information regarding the exhibition, please contact Theo Coulombe at (917) 627-3261 or info@standardspace.net.

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ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Hannah sits upright in a patterned yellow chair; Charlotte gazes effortlessly while opening a mysterious book; Chip contemplates a technology company; Russ surrounds himself with memorabilia from life; These are just a few of the characters that create my world before a vase of morning flowers distract during a coffee break. Characters and images from popular culture intersperse throughout my paintings, thus creating a world of one's own. Imagination takes flight with mysterious interiors from a fantasyland while these autobiographical and imagined paintings of daily life reflect light and color through portraying the personal; both real and imagined.

These paintings and works on paper document my life and imagination. During a recent residency, I learned about a phenomenon called "Synesthesia" and suddenly felt validated to discover that there is indeed a name to what I have experienced my entire life! Synesthesia is an experience where one visualizes numbers, letters, days of the week or musical notes with flashes of colors and light. The colors that I see are layers of varying light and color. These colors are fixed in my mind since I can remember learning. I am beginning to incorporate these experiences within my paintings of family, friends and a fantasyland from daily life. The scientific or rational side of my mind always needed an analytical understanding but now I realize that my imagination works in conjunction with the rational. Suddenly I feel the freedom not to overthink and I can bounce between life and fiction.

Art: ‘Still Portraits/Family Landscapes’ By Leon Graham

Lisa Warren’s paintings now at Standard Space in Sharon are of the people and things that fill her world: family, friends, pets, places, work. Even the everyday is captured — morning coffee amid flowers and sunlight; her beloved cat, Clemson, sitting in a sunny window; a vase of yellow tulips reflected black in a glass tabletop.

Warren’s world is a privileged one: houses in Greenwich, Maine, Sharon; vacations in the Caribbean. Yet there is neither pretension nor entitlement in her pictures. Figures are presented simply in loose and light brushwork against interiors wild with color and imagined patterns on textiles, floor coverings, and furniture reminiscent of Matisse. Warren’s daughters, husband, mother and father are there on the wall identified only by first name. She lets you into her world, but only so far.

There is “Charlotte,” calmly, confidently sitting on a white ottoman in a bedroom alive with color: small blue and green strokes create wallpaper that covers even the open door, while the brown floor is striped in blue, green and yellow stripes. In “Kate and Tilli,” a young woman with cascades of straight black hair wears a patterned jacket in denim blue. She holds the hand of a child with the loveliest face in the show. The little girl looks out of the canvas serenely: She knows she is loved.

A balding man seems preoccupied in “Waltz” as he sits in an armchair upholstered in white and yellow fabric covered with red leopard spots. What he may be thinking about — waltz and FMCP — are painted on a small blue insert near his left shoulder. A pink flower on a green budded stem unexpectedly occupies the right corner of the picture. (Warren often inserts words or incongruent objects into her work.)

Warren, who studied at the Rhode Island School of Design and at Yale, paints mostly in acrylic and watercolor. Her positioning of images is often unnatural — “Red Brick House,” for example, leans a bit to the right — which surprises you. Her picture planes are mostly flat, although she can achieve true depth when she chooses: “Clemson” shows her adored cat, a collection of dull yellow and brown brush strokes, enjoying the sunlight on a deep and wide window sill beside two vases full of colorful flowers.

Currently Warren is working on a commission from the NU Hotel in downtown Brooklyn, N.Y., to paint a mural in a bedroom as part of their NU Perspectives project to invite emerging artists to decorate hotel rooms. Warren has chosen Truman Capote, who famously lived and wrote in Brooklyn — “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” and “In Cold Blood” were finished there — as her subject. Three watercolors, one of Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly and two of Capote’s yellow house, are charming studies for the mural.

There are several gorgeous watercolors of flowers — Warren can make rose petals palpable — and overstuffed interiors that mix brilliant colors and textures and objects into opulent visual feasts. Yet she can also make “Girl with Gray Hair” arresting in black and white with a slash of red lips.

Lisa Warren’s show continues at Standard Space, 147 Main Street in Sharon, Conn., through Jan. 14, 2018. The gallery is open Thursday to Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Call 917-627-3261 or go to www.standardspace.net.



**“Kate and Tilli” are in
Lisa Warren’s new show at Standard Space.
*Photo submitted***