

Andrea Raft

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In my work I am most responsive to the natural world. In its complex textures and earthen hues I find the mood for my own canvasses. I prefer abstract color fields, choosing to evoke an impression or feeling rather than to depict representational images.

Found objects, collage papers, rocks, metal, and photographs are revealed within my mixed-media pieces. My love of texture and minimal simplicity are founded on the principles of Asian style and eastern philosophy; blended with the influence of Mark Rothko and Anselm Kiefer, two of my favorite artists.

Making art is a meditative, creative process, like being in the "zone" of an enlightened state. Art brings to life an essence of the divine through the act of creating, delivering a gift of quiet introspection, and spiritual exercise.



improviZations³

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Throughout her life, Andrea Raft has found herself drawn to art and the expressiveness it offers. She had first studied painting at the Brentwood Art Center in Los Angeles, where under its auspices, she traveled to Giglio, Italy, to study and paint. It was in Giglio that Andrea developed her interest in layered colors and texture. The walls, doors, and streets of the 11th century walled city inspired her to paint in overlapping layers, with the old under girding the new.

Subsequently, Raft spent six years in the Bahamas, where she was tutored by her proximity of the sea and the unhurried pace of life around her; and more recently, in the countryside of California's central coast and the foothills of the Santa Susana mountains, where she now resides. Each shift—from ancient to modern, from urban to rural, from land to sea, from west to east—has enriched Andrea's artistic perceptions, enabling her to study, paint and show her work professionally in a host of disparate environments.

Andrea's work has appeared in a multitude of juried exhibitions and solo shows; in the Bahamas, San Luis Obispo, Lake Tahoe, Carmel, Scottsdale Arizona, New York City, and Southern California. Andrea has been invited to exhibit with four other artists in a show at the Brand Library Art Gallery, slated to open January 2009. She is a Signature member of the International Society of Acrylic Painters, National Association of Women Artists, Women Painters West, and Collage Artists of America.



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