

ARTISTS TO WATCH

our picks for today's rising stars



Liliana Simanton

Born in Argentina, landscape painter Liliana Simanton grew up in a home where interest in the arts was encouraged and nourished. Simanton's father, a commercial illustrator, spent long hours at his drafting table, she recalls, while her brother perfected the skills that would lead to a career as a well-known sculptor.

When she was 19, Simanton came to the United States to study painting and drawing at the University of Arizona in Tucson. While her career in art eventually came to a temporary halt while she raised her two children, she never lost interest in painting. When her children reached college age about 15 years ago, she returned to taking classes and began painting with a cadre of artists who regularly worked on location in the Palos Verdes area. Simanton considers it to be a fertile ground where she grew as an artist.

Today, the California-based painter is known for her boldly colored landscape works and her impressionistic brush strokes. She works in both oils and watercolors. Her subject >

▲ ROOFTOPS IN LAGUNA BY LILIANA SIMANTON

Mary Anne Lewis

Egypt. China. Japan. Turkey. Tunisia, Thailand. New Mexico-based artist Mary Anne Lewis has visited all these places, frequently finding inspiration. Her camera is usually at her side on such excursions. And later, back in her studio, the photographs she has taken serve as reference points for her mixed-media works.

Lewis' luminescent collages sport highly textured surfaces, which she achieves by applying thin layers of paint, cloth, and paper. "I am fascinated by the most insignificant pieces of paper and scraps of cloth," she explains. "I reach >

Liliana Simanton *continued*

matter often focuses on the Southern California terrain from San Diego northward to Cambria. Simanton says the cliffs, ocean, hills, and the calming fragrance of fresh air all have gotten her hooked on plein-air painting. "I love the excitement I feel when I paint outdoors. Freedom to interpret the landscape as I see it and as I feel it is the goal," she explains. "All the dots have to be connected in the process, so that the end result is lively and honest."

The award-winning artist carries on the legacies of some her artistic heroes such as Hanson Puthuff, Franz Bischoff, and Maurice Braun. She is a member of the California Art Club and Watercolor West Society. Simanton is represented by California Art Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA. —BONNIE GANGLHOFF