

VISIONARY ART

The Art of Lynne Taetzsch, Ph.D.

First inspired by her grandmother, who made artificial flowers, Lynne Taetzsch, Ph.D., started drawing and painting portraits of family and friends as a child.

She studied art at several institutions, including Rutgers University in Newark, N.J., the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and Cooper Union Art School in New York City.

While at Cooper Union, Dr. Taetzsch had her first solo show at the Paula Insel Gallery in New York City. It also was at Cooper Union that Dr. Taetzsch said she “fell in love with the whole surface of the painting, texture, the composition, and the movement. It felt so alive for me.”

For her, painting has always been about “discovery and exploration and always trying to push it a little further; [to] always be on that edge of randomness and purpose and control,” she said.

Dr. Taetzsch did secretarial work to make a living and support her daughter while she painted. She has been greatly influenced by the abstract expressionist and action painting movements made famous by artists such as Jackson Pollock, Helen Frankenthaler, and Willem de Kooning.

Most of Dr. Taetzsch’s artwork comprises bold, vivid colors—particularly reds, blues, and oranges. The use of dark colors does not come naturally. She sees using them as a challenge and sometimes likes to push herself in that direction, simply to see what will emerge.

She believes that art can offer a window into what the artist was experiencing and feeling at the time. “With my art, I painted a lot of it when I was really depressed, and yet people will say that my paintings are joyful and full of energy,” she said. “But a really astute person might say ‘Wow, I see what you were going through.’”

Eventually, she earned a BA in English education from

Rutgers University, and later, a PhD in creative writing from Florida State University. Over the years, she has taught at several colleges and universities.

When she described her life to a psychiatrist, he said that she wasn’t just depressed but that it fit with bipolar disorder. “I didn’t realize I was bipolar until I was in my 40s and going through menopause,” said Dr. Taetzsch, who is now 65.

Dr. Taetzsch has had numerous national and international solo and group exhibitions. She has written two books as well as articles for several art publications and has given many art and literary readings. Now retired, Dr. Taetzsch lives with her husband in Ithaca, N.Y., where she paints full time in her home art studio. To find out more about Dr. Taetzsch, see more of her work, and read her blog, visit her Web site at www.artbylt.com.

—Deeanna Franklin



Abstract Diptych Two, 2006

“There’s a strong sense of line in this, so I kind of used that in making my dominant object that went across in the red and blue. The thick lines—I did that directly from the tube of paint so that they would stand out. The yellow circles help give it a little more texture, formulation, and composition.”



Yin Yang Block, 2000

“This has got the sense of design with the white and then the bluish coming out at you, so you’ve got movement back and forth. I think there’s symbolism for me with the circles. Circles have always been meaningful for me. I had trouble when I was younger accepting the female form and femaleness, so now I think this is sort of embracing it in a fun way.”



Mad Cap Light, 2006

“In this, I think the light coming through was really important for me. It’s called ‘Mad Cap’ because it just sort of came by itself and was just for fun. There are also some deeper blues you can see, and they give it a sense of interest, depth, and movement.”