New Talent: Six Rising Painters Exploring Landscape & Abstraction

Ellen Soffer
Biography

Ellen Soffer is a contemporary abstract painter. She creates paintings on canvas and paper, using mainly oils, but also gouache, acrylic, and watercolor. Currently in the studio, Soffer is focused on a range of large and small paintings where color and movement are emphasized. In addition to twenty solo exhibitions in Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Texas, and Georgia, she has been featured in group exhibitions at the Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, TX, Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Philadelphia, PA and the Longview Museum of Fine Arts, Longview, TX. Most recently she had a large exhibition at Artspace in Louisiana with over 60 paintings and works on paper. She is the recipient of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council's Visual Arts Fellowship and has been awarded several residencies, including the Ragdale Foundation and Skowhegan, as well as selected for Studio Visit magazine and invited to lecture at Middle Georgia State College. Soffer earned her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her BFA from the Philadelphia College of Art. She lives and works out of her studio in Shreveport, LA.

Ellen Soffer
Artist Statement

My studio and art practice are essential in centering my attention, renewing my energy, and engaging with myself and the formal processes of painting. When beginning a new work, I draw shapes and lines on the canvas while referring to previous explorations that share repeating ideas about color, shape, and mark-making. Using oils, I create intuitively, not always knowing how a piece will come together but certain that color and its intensity will be driving factors. Working in paint's nonverbal language, I begin to recognize figurative or associative elements as they emerge from the push and pull of gestural lines and overlapping forms. Content and meaning come afterward by carefully reflecting on how individual paintings relate to current and past bodies of work. Their correlations and narrative are not literal, and the spaces are deliberately ambiguous. My intention is to capture the impressions and sensations left behind from dreams, emotions, or memories without being limited to the specific details of the events themselves, leaving room for viewer participation and interpretation.

Ellen Soffer
CV

BIOGRAPHY:
Born 1957, Philadelphia, PA
Lives and works in Shreveport, LA

EDUCATION:
1983 MFA, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
1981 BFA with Honors, Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITONS:
2024 Shimmer, SAS Gallerie, Bossier City, LA (Curated by Eric Hess)
2023 Ellen Soffer: Pink Sky, Recent Paintings and Works on Paper, artspace, Shreveport, LA (Curated by Kelly McDade), Catalog
Art in the Mayor's Office: Ellen Soffer, Shreveport Mayor's Office Reception Area, Shreveport, LA
2018 Some Are Poems, Bossier Parish Community College, The Learning Commons, Bossier City, LA
2016 Yellow Wind, Night Garden, Acadiana Center for the Arts, Coca-Cola Studio, Lafayette, LA (Curated by Brian Guidry)
2015 Ellen Soffer: The Other Side of Yellow, Magale Library Gallery, Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, LA
Ellen Soffer: Works on Paper, The Agora Borealis, Shreveport, LA (Curated by Katy Larsen)
2014 Ellen Soffer: The Shimmer Series, Peacock Gallery, Middle Georgia State College, Cochran, GA, (Curated by Charlie Agnew)
2012 Ellen Soffer: Eccentric Color, Magale Library Gallery, Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, LA
2011 Ellen Soffer: Busy Season, East Bank Gallery, Bossier Arts Council, Bossier City, LA
Candy Mountain and Other New Works, artspace, Shreveport, LA
1993 Ellen Soffer: Louisiana Paintings, Nexus/Foundation for Today's Art, Philadelphia, PA
1990 Ellen Soffer: Paintings, Bradley Gallery, Lakeland College, Sheboygan, WI
Ellen Soffer: Paintings, Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Center, Kilgore College, Kilgore, TX
1989 Ellen Soffer: Paintings, Noel Memorial Library, Louisiana State University at Shreveport, Shreveport, LA
Paintings: Ellen Soffer, Turner Arts Center, Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport, LA
1988 Ellen Soffer: Recent Works on Paper, Stoner Arts Center, Shreveport, LA
1987 Ellen Soffer: Paintings, Nexus/Foundation for Today's Art, Philadelphia, PA
1985 Ellen Soffer: Paintings, Nexus/Foundation for Today's Art, Philadelphia, PA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITONS:
2026 New Member Exhibit, Silvermine Galleries, New Canaan, CT
New Talent, (working title), Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Philadelphia PA, Curated by Bridgette Mayer, upcoming

2025 75th A•ONE, Silvermine Galleries, New Canaan, CT (Juried and curated by Eleanor de Ropp Flatow)
2024 Critical MASS 12, artspace, Shreveport, LA
CONVERGE, 9th Benefit Exhibition, Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, Juried Benefit Exhibit
2023 Something Big, Something Small, Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Philadelphia PA, Curated by Bridgette Mayer
HOLIDAY, LABspace, Hillsdale, NY
CHAOS! 9, Ro2 Art, Dallas, TX
Critical MASS 11, artspace, Shreveport, LA
2022 Trialogue, featuring Selena Dixon, Todd Camplin, and Ellen Soffer, Mesquite Arts Center, Mesquite, TX
REFUGE, The MAC, Dallas, TX
CHAOS! 8, Ro2 Art, Dallas, TX
2022 Collectible Artists, Central ARTSTATION, Shreveport, LA
Critical MASS 10, artspace, Shreveport, LA, Catalog
HOLIDAY, LABspace, Hillsdale, NY
Select 2022, Garvey/Simon, online Artsy exhibition and in NY location, curated by Elizabeth K. Garvey
2021 Critical MASS 9, artspace, Shreveport, LA
8th Annual Benefit Exhibition: Tools for School and Education Works, Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Philadelphia PA, Invitational Benefit Exhibit
Looking Forward, Carter Burden Gallery, NYC, NY (Juried by Nancy Azara)
2020 8x8 Art on Paper, Flatfile Gallery, online exhibition
HOLIDAY, LABspace, Hillsdale, NY
Art on the Wall, Flatfile Gallery, online exhibition
FLATFILE 8x8, Flatfile Gallery, online exhibition
Quaran Time, artpace, Shreveport, LA
Pushing the Envelope, Pulp Gallery, Holyoke, MA
Mail Art 2020, Lawrence & Clark, Chicago, IL
Brand 48 Annual National Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper, online exhibition, Brand Library & Art Center, Glendale, CA (Juried by Dan McCleary), Catalog
2019 Impulse, Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, TX
B.I.G, Bold, Impressive and Grand – a Curated Exhibition, Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, TX
Marks in Time – Alan Dyson, Anthony Reans and Ellen Soffer, Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, Shreveport, LA (Curated by Nita Cole)
2018 Genius Loci, Castello di Spannocchia, Italy
The 12th Annual Louisiana Fine Arts Showcase, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA, (Curated by Lily Brooks)
Summer Group Exhibit, Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, TX
Color Play, Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, TX
2017 Twelve, Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, TX
Holiday Extravaganza, CENTRAL BOOKING, New York, NY
35mm Slide Show, Fort Worth Community Arts Center, Fort Worth, TX
Summer Group Exhibit, Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, TX
Fresh, Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, Texas

2016 The 10th Annual Louisiana Fine Arts Showcase, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA, (Curated by Lily Brooks)
B16: Wiregrass Biennial, Wiregrass Museum of Art, Dothan, AL (Curated by Dana-Marie Lemmer)
Summer Fun, Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, TX

2015 Abstract Nature, Marlene Yu Museum, Shreveport, LA (Curated by Marlene Yu)
CORE II, Mary Tomás Gallery, Dallas, TX, (Curated by Ashley Tatum)
Starting Small, CENTRAL BOOKING, New York, NY, (Curated by Danielle Grega)
CHAOS!!!, Ro2 Art, Dallas, TX
The 9th Annual Louisiana Fine Arts Showcase, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA, (Curated by Dale Newkirk)
Longview Museum of Fine Arts East Texas Regional Artists Exhibit, Longview, TX, (Curated by Renee Hawkins)
Flying Colours, Artport, Shreveport Regional Airport, Shreveport, LA

2014 Something Old, Something New, Something Funky, Something Blue, Membership Exhibition, The McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Dallas, TX
9th Annual Texas Artist Coalition Juried Membership Exhibit, Fort Worth Community Arts Center, Fort Worth, TX (Juried by Judy Tedford Deton)
27th September Competition, Alexandria Museum of Art, Alexandria, LA (Juried by James Michalopoulos)
2014 Benefit for BalletX, Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Philadelphia PA Invitational Benefit Exhibit
The 8th Annual Louisiana Fine Art Showcase, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond LA (Curated by Dale Newkirk)
Art Exhibition II, Norsworthy Fine Art Gallery, Shreveport, LA
29th Annual International Exhibition, The Meadows Gallery, The University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, TX, (Juried by Dean Daderko)

2013 Triplets, The Small Gallery, Dallas, TX, (Curated by Rita Barnard)
Working It Out, The Painting Center, New York, NY (Curated by Mona Brody, Alyce Gottesman, and Jo Ann Rothchild) Catalog
BalletX Benefit Exhibit, Bridgette Mayer Gallery, Philadelphia, PA Invitational Benefit Exhibit
Picturing Prose and Poetry, Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia PA
Delta, McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Dallas, TX
Exotica, Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA, (Juried by Ellen Owens)

2012 Bona Fide 2!, artspace, Shreveport, LA
7th Annual Texas Artist Coalition Juried Membership Exhibit, Fort Worth Community Art Center, Fort Worth, TX (Juried by Sue Norwood-Flynn)
25th September Competition, Alexandria Museum of Art, Alexandria, LA (Juried by Linda Stein)
Summer in the City, Da Vinci Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA
Trans-, 2012 Membership Exhibit, McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Dallas, TX

2011 Meltdown! 2011 Membership Exhibit, McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Dallas, TX
Surface, The Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery, Bakersfield College, Bakersfield, CA, (Curated by Margaret Nowling)

Going with the Flow, P's Gallery, Longview, TX

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

2024 Sanders, Jessica, "Artist Interview with Ellen Soffer," ArtShare Zine, Vol.3, May 2024

2023 Viser, Patricia, "ellen soffer: pink sky, The artspace exhibition of this northwest Louisiana artist will color your world.," SB Magazine, March 2023
Camplin, Todd, "Chaos! 9," moderndallas.net, July 30, 2023
Swain, Liz, "5 things to do in downtown Shreveport," The Shreveport Times, January 27, 2023
Viser, Patricia, "NWLA artist opens newest exhibition," 318 Forum, January 11 – January 24, 2023

2022 Sarradet, William, "Chaos and Refuge: Exhibitions to See in Dallas," August 19, 2022, Glasstire (online)
Wilkerson, Emily, "Critical Mass X," 318 Forum, March 9-March 22, 2022
Wilkerson, Emily, "Most captivating art transports viewer," Shreveport Times, February 28, 2022

2021 Kennell, Tiana, "Critical Success," The Shreveport Times, May 2, 2021
Shaffer, Gabriel, "Best In Show," 318 Forum, April 21 – May 4, 2021

2020 Juarez, Frank, "Artist Spotlight Ellen Soffer," Artdose Magazine Weekly, November 1, 2020
Peterson, Christian, "Meet Ellen Soffer / Visual Artist, Painter," Shoutout DFW, September 16, 2020
Landi, Ann, "Nothing But Good News: James Deeb, the USPS Art Project, Eat My Memoir," Vasari21, July 27, 2020

2019 Landi, Ann, "It's Bananas, but the Art Fairs Rock On," Vasari21, December 10, 2019

2018 Landi, Ann, "Gudrun Mertes-Frady and Mary Gabriel: Formidable Women, Then and Now," Vasari21, October 15, 2018

2017 Camplin, Todd, "FRESH at Mary Tomás Gallery," moderndallas.net, May 5, 2017
Corbin, Michael K., "Ellen Soffer: Close-Up Particles," artbookguy.com, April 1, 2017
Camplin, Todd, "Art Month in Dallas," moderndallas.net, March 31, 2017

2016 Trudeau, Robert, "Quiet but Seriously Collectible: Paintings by Ellen Soffer at Rainforest Art Foundation," Heliopolis, January 28, 2016

2015 Siegel, J., "Arthur Siegel and Ellen Soffer," J. Siegel Designs Blog, October 6, 2015
Camplin, Todd, "Ellen Soffer," moderndallas.net, July 31, 2015
Trudeau, Robert, "Exporting Shreveport Art: See Work by C. Mark Burt, Joshua Chambers, Ellen Soffer in Dallas and New Orleans," Shreveport Blogspot, July 18, 2015
Marszalek, Norbert, "The WIP Project: What is Painting? Featuring Ellen Soffer," Neoteric Art (neotericart.com) March 20, 2015

2013 Whitehead, Mike, "The Creative Class," SB Magazine, July 2013: 46-49
Hasten, Karl, "Centered, Soffer's Passion for Art Spreads from Palette to Canvas," City Life (www.CityLifemag.net) May 2013: 43. (Fairchild, Lora, untitled photo, 2013)

2012 Studio Visit, Volume 18, 2012, Juried by Trevor Richardson.

2011 Bolger, Monica, "Art Exhibit on Campus Showcases Unique Art," The Renegade Rip (Bakersfield College), September 21, 2011
Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery, "Surface," (bcartgallery.wordpress.com), August 2011

INTERVIEWS AND LECTURES:

2023 Ellen Soffer: Pink Sky, Recent Painting and Works on Paper, Artist Conversation with Curator, Ellen Soffer and Kelly McDade, artspace, Shreveport, LA
Something Big, Something Small, Artist Panel, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia PA

2014 Scene, Longview and Kilgore Texas Cable TV, Jan Statman, Longview, TX, Interview
Artist's Interview: Ellen Soffer, Piney Woods LIVE, Jan Statman, Interview

2012 Understanding Art Class, Bossier Parish Community College, Bossier City, LA, Artist Talk
Interview: Ellen Soffer, Better Shreveport, KSCL 91.3 FM, Loren Demerath, Interview
Interview with Artist Ellen Soffer, Jewish Art Education Film Corp., Sheri Klein, Interview

Collections

The Fabric Workshop Museum, Philadelphia, PA
Longview Museum of Fine Arts, Longview, TX
Louisiana State University Health Science School of Medicine, Shreveport, LA