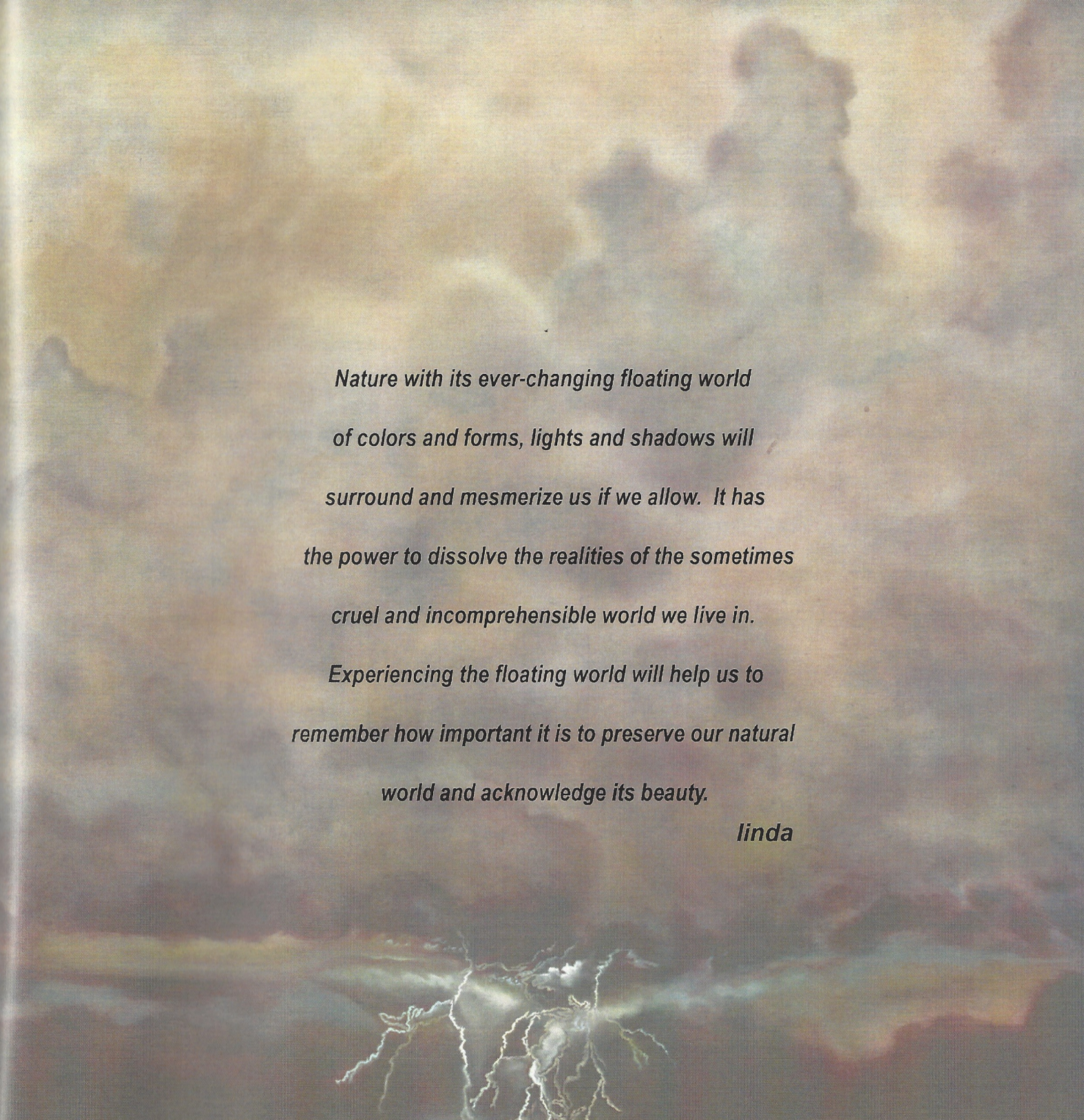


t h e f l o a t i n g w o r l d
t h e f l o a t i n g w o r l d

g i n a s t e p a n i u k & l i n d a v a l l e j o

METRO GALLERY LOS ANGELES, CA

EXHIBITION DATES: OCTOBER 6 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3, 2007



*Nature with its ever-changing floating world
of colors and forms, lights and shadows will
surround and mesmerize us if we allow. It has
the power to dissolve the realities of the sometimes
cruel and incomprehensible world we live in.
Experiencing the floating world will help us to
remember how important it is to preserve our natural
world and acknowledge its beauty.*

linda

Linda Vallejo's Spirited Landscapes

"The Great Spirit is in all things, he is in the air we breathe. The Great Spirit is our Father, but the Earth is our Mother, She nourishes us, that which we put into the ground she returns to us..."

Big Thunder (Bedagi), Wabanaki Algonquin

Although there may be some right-wing ideologues who still think global warming is a liberal conspiracy, most of us realize, with economist Jeremy Rifkin, that "The greenhouse crisis is the bill coming due for the Industrial Revolution. It's not an accident. It's the logical outcome of our world view - the idea that we can control the forces of nature, that we can have short-term expedient gains without paying for them, that there are no limits to exploitation of the environment, that we can produce and consume faster than nature's ability to replenish. "Global warming is real, it is the logical outcome of how we live, it is catastrophic in nature. And it is a symptom of the spiritual emptiness in contemporary culture. So how can someone who's not a scientist or politician, not an economist or a professional environmentalist...how can someone who is say, an artist respond to global warming?

Linda Vallejo has created a stunning body of work that answers that question with power and grace. In her landscapes

and tree paintings, the artist not only envisions the sky and the planet and its arboreal inhabitants as beautiful, she also depicts these earth elements as vital and alive, breathing the eternal animating force of spirit. The trees writhe, the grass undulates, the satiny sky roils above pulsating velvet hills.

Because Vallejo makes us see the world as alive, she compels us to see our kinship with the rocks and trees that live here with us. As native peoples have long reminded us, we are family members. Just as it would be unthinkable to poison our father sky and mother earth, and our relatives the trees.

For decades, Vallejo has participated in indigenous healing rituals. More recently, she has been doing "Prayer for the Earth" installations based on native symbology. Her three-dimensional prayers are always flanked by paintings such as the ones in this exhibition. Poetic and infused with the sacred, Vallejo's paintings of trees and sky are visual prayers that return us to spirit. They do so with finely crafted and elegantly conceived art.

Leonardo da Vinci wrote: "When the spirit does not work with the hand, there is no art." He would have recognized that the spirit animating earth and sky and trees also animates Vallejo's sumptuous paintings.

Betty Ann Brown



electric oak, spring equinox 2007

30X30 oil paint on canvas



electric oak, fall equinox 2007

30X30 oil paint on canvas



electric oak in daylight 2007 12X12 oil paint on canvas



electric oak in the evening 2007 12X12 oil paint on canvas



electric oaks on the hillside 2007

60X84 oil paint on canvas



golden yucca 2006

40X30 oil paint on canvas



thunder, lightning and rain 2006

50X50 oil paint on canvas



death valley, stovepipe dunes 2006

12X60 oil paint on canvas



Linda Vallejo was born and educated in Los Angeles. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from *Whittier College* in 1973, completed undergraduate studies in lithography at *Madrid University Spain*, and received a Master of Fine Arts from *Cal State University, Long Beach* in 1978. Ms Vallejo has studied and participated in Native American and Chicano traditional ceremony for over 25 years. Currently she lives in Topanga Canyon

with husband Ron Dillaway. She has two sons Robert and Paul. Linda says about her work “My goal as an artist is to create an image that communicates the idea that without nature, humanity and history, culture as we know it is lost. Nature is the thread that encircles and describes all of us, regardless of gender, race, age, or creed and is beyond politics, religion, market and even art” !

Selected exhibitions include; *Los Angeles Natural History Museum, Los Angeles Craft and Folk Art Museum, The Carnegie Art Museum, Armand Hammer Museum, Laguna Art Museum, Bronx Museum, Museum of Modern Art New York, San Antonio Museum, Mexico City Modern Art Museum, Galleria Las Americans, Tropic Nopal, Ave 50 Studio Gallery, Patricia Corriea Gallery and Metro Gallery*. Selected publications include; *ArtNews, Art Business News, Southwest Art, Saludos Hispanos, Los Angeles Times, Artillery, LA Downtown News and Latin Style Magazine*.

“Linda’s paintings of surreal, electrified and transformed landscapes suggest a more vibrant and alluring reality. Color and energy swirl throughout the canvasses and transport you into her alternative world”.

*William Moreno
Executive Director
Claremont University*