

Linda Vallejo
Woman in Nature 1986-2007
Artist Statement

My artwork revolves around my dual experiences as a woman and a Chicana living in the late twentieth century and studying the ancient indigenous traditions of Mexico and the Americas. I have worked to discover woman in her modern and ancient place as a source of strength, love, and integrity. I believe that all women are a part of the earth and can be inspired by a relationship with and through nature.

It is my firm belief that the woman is the symbol of the earth and that each woman can learn aspects of loyalty, integrity, honor, generosity, and courage directly from the earth.

I have tried in my paintings of the female form to show women as tranquil and whole, filled with "love and integrity." In these images I have worked to combine indigenous symbols with feminine identity. I believe that women are the symbol of the earth, its nurturing and protective nature, as well as its strength and longevity.

The images of the women that I paint come from my relationships with the women in my life; family, friends, and ceremonial circle. Each one of these women have inspired my work and appear in these paintings.

Dr. Edith Tonelli, ArtScene Magazine, "Inspired by pre-Columbian precedents and Rivera's exemplar, Vallejo began painting images of women in nature in 1990. Her series entitled Women of Love and Integrity includes dozens of works on both canvas and paper, all of them based on the fusion of the female with nature ... Some of the women have butterfly faces. Some have heads replaced by shining sunflowers, the petals becoming spiky yellow tresses. These paintings are distinguished from their earlier relatives by the intense sensuality of the more fully realized female nudes."