



L i s a L a l a

Kansas City, MO

SEEKER Exhibition Artist Statement

Lately, I have found myself giving more time to chewing on larger questions.

What is the meaning of Life?

How can we be present?

How should we spend our time?

I do not think there is just one answer to these questions.

I have also been thinking about my studio practice.

Why do I do this?

What does my work mean to me?

What does my work mean to others?

I have spent time re-exploring previous work—the curious experience of looking an earlier self in the eyes. Seeing who that person was, what they were thinking about, and also at the same time knowing where that person will go in years to come - years that now have already passed.

Who have I been up to now?

What do all of these moments, choices, acts, and creations look like when pockets have been emptied and all the little collected pieces of my life have been cast upon the table?

What does it mean?

And in this quiet, knowing space I can ask:

Where do I want to go from here?

Lisa Lala was born near San Francisco, CA in 1973. During childhood, she was raised with a global perspective, while traveling with her family to impoverished countries as medical volunteers. In 1994, she received her BFA from the University of Kansas. Represented by Blue Gallery since 2004, Lisa Lala's paintings can be found in private, corporate and museum collections worldwide. Select collections include American Century Investments, Kansas City, MO, Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Kansas City, MO, Emprise Banks, Wichita, KS, and Missouri Bank, Kansas City, MO.

Blue Gallery

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ABOUT THE PAINTINGS

As I became immersed in lists, my paintings changed from Birds to Lists.

For each painting I wrote in items from different lists, the unrelated string of items became poetry to me.

These paintings are a journey to ideas both far and near to my world.

“I do not believe that this world is a dark place or that these are dark times. This world is an amazing, beautiful place with some dark corners in need of light.”

-LL

Lisa Lala has been immersed in art since birth. Her parents are sculptor Wil Lala, and watercolor painter Susan Lala. Growing up in Manhattan, Kansas, Lala was raised with a global perspective as her father often took his family to impoverished countries as medical volunteers.

Lala received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Recently she has studied under master abstract painter Philomene Bennett. She has also painted with Wolf Kahn, Lisa Grossman, Jane Booth, Sue Adams and Bev Gegan who all have influenced her work.

After four sell-out shows since her launch in 2003, Lala is now represented both nationally and internationally.

PAINTING ON GLASS

History

Artists have been painting on glass for hundreds of years. As glass was first made in Venice, Italy, it is appropriate that glass painting also began there, with works documented as far back as the 13th century. But the roots of glass painting go back even further to the 4th or 5th century where glass fragments decorated with gold have been found embedded in Roman tombs.

As time passed, the secret of making glass escaped Italy, and glass painting techniques followed the glass. Works are well documented in France beginning in the 13th century, Germany beginning in the 17th century, and China beginning in the 17th century.

Often the paintings are meant to be viewed from the back side, in which case the term “reverse painting on glass” is used. The French often included gold leaf in their glass painting work. When gold has been used, the work it is called “verre eglomise”, or just “Eglomise”. Eglomise is used often to describe much of the French glass painting in the 14th, 15th and even the 16th century.

In the twentieth century artists such as Wassily Kandinsky, Jackson Pollock, Pablo Picasso, Paul Klee, Marcel Duchamp and Marsden Hartley also painted on glass.



Lisa Lala

Kansas City, MO

“Simple and honest and, given their luscious texture, almost good enough to eat” -Daniella Walsh, ArtScene of S. California, 12/07

“One of Kansas City’s most celebrated artists” -KC Magazine, 02/10

“Broad, confident strokes” - Jan Schall, Ph.D., Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 09/07

REPRESENTATION

Blue Gallery: Kansas City, MO

Pryor Fine Art: Atlanta, GA

NOTABLE COLLECTIONS

Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph, MO

Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS

Federal Home Loan Bank, Atlanta, GA

American Century Investments, Kansas City, MO

MarketSphere, Kansas City, MO

Emprise Banks, Wichita, KS

Missouri Bank, Kansas City, MO

Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Kansas City, MO

Ogletree Deakins, Kansas City, MO

Houlihan’s Restaurant Group, Leawood, KS

Intercontinental Kansas City at The Plaza, Kansas City, MO

BIOGRAPHY

From the physical space of her cliff-side studio, Lisa Lala explores the larger, intangible questions of our existence in an attempt to re-humanize painting. Her work connects to the white space, the peace and exuberance of our most contemplative moments. While known primarily for her paintings, Lala’s practice also includes sculpture, light art, and installations.

Lisa Lala was born in California to artistic parents who encouraged her instincts from an early age. Her mother allowed her to maintain a work table alongside her in her fiber art studio. She also accompanied them on humanitarian trips world-wide, which fostered her unique perspective and exposed her to many different ways of life. Lala now lives and works in Lake Lotawana, Missouri.

SELECTED PRESS

KC Magazine - “Lisa Lala Saw the Light” Pete Dulin - 08/13

KC Magazine - KC’s top 100 Most Influential people- 02/13

Channel 12 Brooklyn - “List Wall: NYC/Brooklyn” Matt Pieper - 07/14/11

White Train Brooklyn- “Five things to do” - 07/15/11

Missfits Magazine - “Lisa Lala” feature on Lala’s list paintings and List Wall Project - spring 2011 art issue

KC Magazine - Nominated “best visual artist” 08/06, 08/07, 08/08, 08/09, 08/11

Present Magazine - “Lisa Lala’s Low-Tec Lowdown on Art Basel, Miami” 12/11/10

The Huffington Post - “Taking an Oblique Path and Finding the Center” Bill Lasarow - 11/12/10

KC Magazine - “Finally Home” feature on Lala’s home - 12/10

CBS Better Mornings, Atlanta - “Lisa Lala” 7/7/10

Home Design - “Spaces” Wendy Dow - 06/10

Review Magazine- “She’s Got a Not-So-Little List : Lisa Lala” Steve Brisendine - 02/10

Spaces Magazine - “Shades of Great” feature on Lala’s List Series paintings - 02/10

KC Star, Midwest Voices - “Crossroads First Friday Midwinter Fun” Tom Ryan - 02/10

KC Freepress - “Five Things not to miss this First Friday” Robert Bingaman - 02/04/10

KSHB 41 (NBC)- Interview regarding List Show - 1/18/10



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The Walt Bodine Show , KCUR- "Lists" - 1/7/10
KC Studio - "Hot Displays for Cooler Days" List Wall project interview- 1/10
Spaces Magazine - "Zen Cabin" A Lisa Lala painting tells the color story for a home - 2009 resource guide
Uniquely Kansas City - KCPT video magazine of the arts- interview with Lisa Lala -premiered 11/20/08
Orange County Lifestyle - "Laguna Art Walk" Interview with Lisa Lala, aired on LA channel 3- January 2008
ArtScene: Monthly Art Digest in Southern California - "Sylvia Torres and Lisa Lala" D. Walsh 12/07
KC Star - "Artistic Approaches" Brian McTavish - 9/20/07
Present Magazine - "Wonder Wheel" Rachael Jane - 4/3/07
Kansas City Magazine - Cover and Profile on Lisa Lala, March 2005
Kansas City Magazine - "52 People you ought to meet" Ann Slegman, July 2004
KC Star - "Lala land comes to the Plaza" Brian McTavish 9/23/04
Wednesday Magazine - "Kemper Museum celebrates a Decade" Laura Stocker 10/04

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS / ENGAGEMENTS

- 2014 "Brandon McMillan and Lisa Lala" - Duo Show - Pryor Fine Art, Atlanta, GA - May
- 2013 "LISA LALA : LIT portals" - Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO - October
"VIM" - Group Show - Lawrence Art Center, Lawrence, KS - January-March
- 2012 "Group Show" - Benjamin Krause Gallery, Lower East Side, Manhattan, NY - July
"Summer Show" - Group Show - Swenson Fine Art, Laguna Beach, CA - June-July
- 2011 "List Wall: NYC/Brooklyn" - Solo Show - SoapBox Gallery, Brooklyn, NY - June
"Nature as Muse" - Group Show - Blue Gallery, KC - June
"Group Show" Krause Gallery, Manhattan, NY - July
"Lisa Lala" - Solo Show - Strecker Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS - September
"Group Show" - Marion Meyer Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA - October
- 2010 "Lists" - Solo Show - Blue Gallery , Kansas City, MO - February
"List Wall: Atlanta" - Solo Show - Bennett Street Gallery, Atlanta, GA - May
"Ascension"- Group Show - Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, Laguna Beach, CA - May
"Lisa Lala" - Solo Show - Tobi Fairley Gallery, Little Rock, AR - July
"List Wall: San Antonio" - Solo Show - Hausmann Millworks, San Antonio, TX - October
- 2009 "Lisa Lala & Tracey Lane" - Duo Show - Bennett Street Gallery, Atlanta, GA - June
"Kansas Masters" - Invitational - Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS - August
"Glow" - Group invitational - Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS - October
Group Show - Tobi Fairley Gallery, Little Rock, AR - December
- 2008 "Something Red" - Group Show - Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, Laguna Beach, CA - March
"Birds" - Duo Show - Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO - June
"Birds on a Wire" - Solo show - Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS - October
"Group show" - Bennett St. Gallery, Atlanta, GA - November
- 2007 "Kansas Masters" - Invitational curated by Don Lambert- Strecker-Nelson Gallery - May
"Child's Play" - Group Show - Chicago Art Source Gallery - June
"Victory over Gravity" - Solo Museum Show - The Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph, MO - June
"76th Annual Plaza Art Fair" - Juried Show - Featured Artist - Kansas City, MO - September
"Earthly Meditations" - Group Show - Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, Laguna Beach, CA - November
- 2006 "The Philomene Bennett Atelier" - Group Show, Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS - January
"Abstract Landscapes" - Group show - Gallery 27, Steamboat Springs, CO - February
- 2005 "Each Day" - Solo Show - Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO - February



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“Lala : Lala” - Father/Daughter show - Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS - June

“Grand Opening” - Group show - Gallery 27, Steamboat Springs, CO - November

2004 “FlowerPower” - Group show - Anthem Gallery, NY, NY - April

“First Fridays” - Group show - Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO - March, May, August, October

“Hills” - Solo show - Makiatos, Kansas City, MO - November

“Painting on Glass” - Workshop - Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, with the Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO, November

2003 “Untitled” - Group show - Belizian Arts, Belize, Central America - January

“Dayscapes” - Solo show - Kansas City Artist Coalition, Kansas City, MO - October

EDUCATION

2002-2004 -Philomene Bennett Studio - Studied painting with Philomene Bennett, Kansas City,NO

2004 - Tjasa Demsar - Studied Color and art history with Slovenian painter, Tjasa Demsar in France

2004 - Wolf Kahn - Studied color with Wolf Kahn at New York Academy in NYC

2002 - Lisa Grossman - Studied landscape painting with Lisa Grossman in the Flint Hills, KS

1994 - BFA - University of Kansas

