

Linda Raudonus – *It's a Thin Line*

Visual Description

This exhibit is of highly textured acrylic paintings on canvas. I will describe 6 of the works. Most of the paintings share some of the same characteristics of highly textured paint blobs in bright colours, with streaks of paint in similar or contrasting colours providing strong visual energy. Some of the works are framed but most are simply stretched canvas. They are arranged one or two to a panel on the large, freestanding gallery panels. There are four double sided panels, covered with a beige carpet-like material, stacked in a line, running north-south. The panel faces also point north-south. The panels are numbered 1 through 8, with 1 being the northernmost panel, 2 being the south facing panel on the rear side of panel 1, and so on, through panel 8 being the southernmost panel.

Linda Raudonus is a passionate painter, who works with deep concentration on her abstract works. Linda lives with Autism and self-identifies as an artist, frequently introducing herself as an artist. She is a colourist painter, who loves to combine colours in her paintings and is specific about the colours that she uses. Linda's paintings display the energy of "Colour Theory" applied to her choices and she continues to paint each canvas until it feels done to her.

As someone who is on the Autism Spectrum, Linda seeks order in her life and her paintings express her need to seek order in their linear structure, however her use of colour expresses emotion and depth in her work.

While in the studio, Linda enjoys both painting and creating pottery on the wheel. Linda excels when using her palette knives and acrylic paints, resulting in incredibly colorful and expressive pieces. Linda is a very friendly, gentle person with a great attention to detail. She's someone you can be sure will never forget your name. She creates her art at the CLS Pottery Works in New Westminster. She likes to be creative because it relaxes her. Linda is extremely happy about being a part of art shows because she loves to see her work on display and loves to meet new people.

nb. The titles are not given by the artist, rather just used to identify the different works

Panel 1 – Untitled square dark teal (36"x36")

This square painting has an overall vertical feel, with the streaks of colour running vertically. The streaks are mostly lighter blues, and around the blobs are dark blues or blacks. Like most of the paintings, the textured area does not reach right to the edges of the canvas, but rather that area is where the concentrated streaks are. In this canvas, we also have some concentrated streaks in the bottom right corner. The vibrant blues are very exciting and a closer inspection reveals some browns, blacks and whites in the background, but the overall image reads as bright teal blue.

Panel 2 – Untitled horizontal (36"x24")

This painting is the only one in the exhibit that is oriented horizontally with the streaks running side to side. It is also less blobby in texture, though it has some more streaky texture as well as colour. It is hard to determine an overall colour with this piece, and in close inspection there are many: brown, blue, yellow, pink, white, dark blue, and red. The image reminds me of a broken up reflection on a body of water – like the underside of a cherry tree in bloom reflected back from a small lake.

Panel 3 – Untitled upper (24"x18") and Untitled lower (21"x16.5")

There are also two paintings on this panel, but they are very different. The top one is much paler and has a more defined textural design within it. The colours are pale yellow, pale blue and orange. In the middle of the painting is a band of light yellow – it doesn't have even edges and there are other colours

running through it, but it is predominantly yellow. Above and below are bands of light blue, where Linda has highlighted the blobs in streaks of blue. Above and below the blue bands are the edges of the painting which are less textured and which feature more of the orange colour. Overall the painting looks like bursting energy.

The painting below is much darker. It too has a tight black frame around it. The dominant colours are deep indigo purple, blood red, and a paler orange as accent. It has strong vertical streaking with the overall being the dark blue. The texture goes more to the outside edges than many of the other paintings. This one is moody and deep.

Panel 5 – Untitled upper (30"x24") and Untitled lower (30"x24")

Two paintings are hung on this panel and they share the same colours but are treated in different ways. The top one is matte blue texture on a bright orangish red background. The blobs are somewhat sparse and look very shaggy, and blue dominates but little streaks of red peek through. There is still some streaking on the top of the texture, in white or lighter blue, but the mid-level blue is the dominant colour. The red background is visible on the painted edges of the canvas.

The lower painting shows a more even mix of the bright orange-red colour and the matte blue colour. Red is the upper colour and can easily be seen in the non-textured areas at the edges of the canvas. The blobs in this painting are also less shaggy than the one above it and are more pervasive, rounder and more blobby. This painting's edges are painted black.