

by  
hand  
by  
hobby

# Paintings of Instinct and Emotion

By Paula Sienna

West of the Sun, East of the Moon by Linda Dessaint Fine Art

Standing in the gardens of Giverny, peering into the studio of Impressionist leader Claude Monet and walking through his home, Monadnock based painter Linda Dessaint felt a thrill. Always an artist in spirit since a young age, she felt the spark of a life changing moment. Her blossoming passion came full circle and stopped front and center.

Born in Peterborough and raised in Hillsborough, Dessaint recalled the pure exhilaration as a teenager of picking up a brush and painting all night while the hours slipped by. However, it was not until her daughter started college that she was able to paint full time and devote to this passion.

"It never feels like work," Dessaint says. "I am never bored or depressed. It just feels like joy."

Her love of painting has sparked a career that has brought Dessaint not only professional accolades, but the rare ability to wake up every morning and do what brings her happiness.

"I can't wait to get to the studio or outside!" Dessaint says.

Dessaint's desire to be at work will occasionally lead her to arrange her daily schedule so that her mornings are spent making dinner and doing everyday work so she can spend the rest of the day outside capturing the magic of afternoon light.

On days when she works at her studio, Dessaint describes the type of work environment as one most only dream of. She has incense burning, a cup of tea nearby and uplifting music playing. Sometimes in this setting she is even able to work on up to three pieces at a time if they contain similar elements or colors.

Unlike some painters, Dessaint notes that she's never at a loss when selecting her next subject.

"What doesn't inspire me?" she says laughing. "Nature, the seasons, light, composition. People who bring something to me and trying to see it through their eyes and capture their own feelings and emotions."

Like a pure artist from soul to toe, Dessaint admits she can look outside and picture a scene as a painting as she analyzes the sight for composition and color.

To create her works Dessaint seems to use two different paths, one for commissioned projects and the other for her own selections. Both processes start with a few rough sketches to determine basic shapes and where Dessaint will stand. With outdoor works, she will then create a couple of paintings to bring back to her studio to combine into one final piece.

Her original ideas seem to go quicker and Dessaint says she can sometimes finish them in just a few days, while client requests take a few weeks as she carefully meets with each person to make sure the finished piece will be memorable and emotional, which are two criteria she uses herself in assessing art.

"Paintings that speak to me bring me to a moment and invoke memories," Dessaint says.

"I hope to capture energy, light and emotion of some

sort," she adds. "Each moment in time has a certain feeling and I want to bring that to the viewer."

As one might expect with a self professed "instinctual and emotional" painter, Dessaint did not attend a formal art school, but instead trained with a number of master painters, including Albert Handel, Elizabeth Mowry and Richard McKinley. She credits to a large part the mentorship of Russ

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Russell in helping her develop into the talented painter she has become.

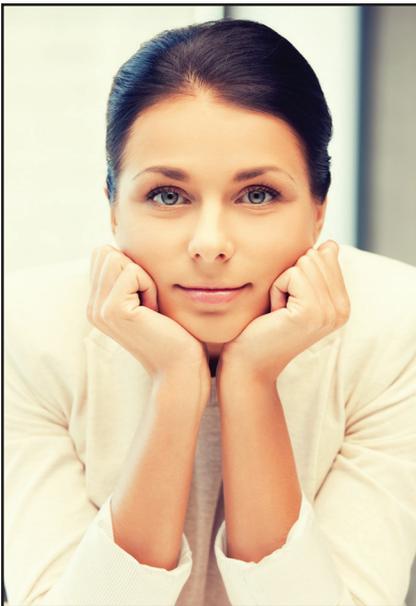
"He taught me the basic composition and value skills but let me do the rest," Dessaint says. "He never told me how to paint, but would ask what I was going to work on and then how I planned to do it while providing guidance."

That instruction has led Dessaint to membership in a number of juried societies including the Pastel Society of America and the Oil Painters of America. She also holds Signature Membership in both the Pastel Painters of Maine and the New Hampshire Pastel Society, and is part of the Monadnock Area Art Association, the American Impressionist Society and New Hampshire Plein Air.

Dessaint's work can be viewed across the United States or at her own gallery and studio located at 52 Main Street in Antrim. Please call 603-801-5249 to confirm open hours. In addition, to learn more about her art, view a wide selection of pieces, or make a purchase audiences can visit her Website at [www.LindaDessaint.com](http://www.LindaDessaint.com).



Linda Dessaint Fine Art from top: Sunshine of Your Love; Scottish Highlanders; Thirst.



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