

Lynne Riding – the artist who has mastered a unification of unspoken emotion and talent



PHOTO PROVIDED

By Maggie McKay

Renowned artist Lynne Riding has made waves throughout the Charleston community through her impressive landscape paintings.

Using a combination of movement and depth to create life in her pieces,

Riding has introduced her global knowledge of art to eager viewers at the Helena Fox Fine Art Gallery.

Born in Mid Wales, Riding developed an authentic style of painting that merges her love of nature's complex emotions with an abstract lens.

Growing up on the England-Wales border, Rider felt a dual connection to both cultures. Riding's work reflects a nostalgic appreciation for the emotionally evocative landscapes of hillside valleys.

Riding believes that to "feel and soak up the atmospheric" experience of Mid Wales, she must focus on the tops of the hills she walked across from memory. Rather than working from photographs, she immerses herself in nature and works alongside her muse. She observes the natural environment and performs outdoor painting studies to insert raw emotion into a piece before returning to her home studio to add layering.



Marvao, Portugal Spring Series 1-6. 12 x 12-inch panels, mixed-media and silver leaf on paper. These images were inspired by her travels in Portugal.

By incorporating color studies into her pieces, Riding channels “a sense of place.” Her nonrepresentational pieces highlight a longing for home

through the essence of color. In her abstract representations of feeling, she mimics the feeling of longing found in memories of Welsh landscapes.

Regarding her annual July trip to her homeland, Riding noted, “I thought, ‘What was it that just struck me this time? It really is always the flowers and the hedge rows instead of the valleys and the hills. I tried to make the painting feel as if you were down amongst it.’”

After moving to Charleston 30 years ago, she began to incorporate the natural freedom she associated with S.C. into her work. Her pieces evoke a “combination of life experience” through landscapes of “the ocean, movement in the air, the clouds and the rolling surf.” Riding originally intended to spend three years in the area but was struck by Charleston's ability to “really catch hold” of her creative expression. Riding implemented her immense talent while educating students in College of Charleston’s art program for a decade. She spends her weekends painting at her home studio before spending her evenings at local jazz clubs. A movie buff and dance enthusiast, Riding commands a wealth of artistic talents beyond her oil paintings.

“I quite often use lines and marks that I’ve collected or made in drawings or pieces like twisted wires. Then I’ll draw them. They go into my work and act as a metaphor for something. You may see this beautiful, soft piece that’s got this twisting — like a foreboding,” she says in reference to her works on display at the Helena Fox Fine Art Gallery. Riding has always felt inspired by Robert Motherwell’s power and energy in his mark-making. Similarly, she finds inspiration from Mark Toby’s mystical layering style. She also finds inspiration from Bill Jensen’s abstract style and Georgia O’Keeffe’s mastery of color.

To witness Lynne Riding’s spectacular exhibit, visit the Helena Fox Fine Art Gallery located at 106-A Church Street in Charleston.