

ELISABETH CONDON

Some years ago, the Albany Museum of Arts presented a remarkable exhibition of paintings by Elisabeth Condon. The works on show were inspired by contrasts: flow and discontinuity, for example, ancient customs and modernity, finesse and chaos.

When I met Elisabeth last November at her studio in the Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn, she had just returned from a six-month stint as artist-in-residence at the Swatch Art Peace Hotel, perched right on The Bund on the Huangpu River in Shanghai. Here she lived and breathed the substance of the city, creating enormous new skylines, skyscrapes, big-city urban living themes and the cypress trees that are part and parcel of Chinese life - all from sight! Condon told me George Clooney visited the studio during her first week there. Pretty cool, I would say!

Her landscape paintings almost always begin as small sketches and then evolve into large-scale, non-descript abstractions. A clear, empty, tree-lined road suddenly explodes into an array of vibrantly colored star bursts - eye-popping oranges, yellows, purples, reds and greens describing the surfaces and contours of foliage and plateaus. Striking abstractions, almost overblown and oozing animated presence, are a vital element in Condon's paintings.



Elisabeth was born on November 30, 1959, in Los Angeles. Secondary schooling at the Brentwood Academy was followed by studies at the University College of San Diego before she completed her bachelor of fine arts in painting at the Otis Art Institute. Condon has exhibited at various galleries in the United States.

Elisabeth, the way you fuse western and eastern lines into such wonderful, rhythmic patterns is simply delightful! I trust that many more marvelous trips will continue to stoke the fires of your inspiration!

