

THE MAGAZINE of *SPLENDID HOMES and GARDENS* • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

DESIGN

NEW ENGLAND

NEW LIFE *for* OLD TREASURES



ANN TRAINOR DOMINGUE'S "messy, friendly" style of painting is reflected in her studio surroundings — a dazzling jumble of brushes, palette knives, sketchbooks, and working canvases interspersed with inspirational images and phrases.



Painting Joy

Artist Ann Trainor Domingue finds happy inspiration in the day-to-day of New England life

WRITTEN BY LORI FERGUSON • PHOTOGRAPHED BY RUSS MEZIKOFSKY

The index cards are small and plain, each inscribed with a simple word or phrase: “painterly,” “together,” “busy patterns woven in,” “Don’t think — paint!” The messages are scattered across a wall in painter Ann Trainor Domingue’s Goffstown, New Hampshire, studio like droplets of paint flung from a brush. “I see everything in the world as a potential subject, so I need some way to focus my energies,” Domingue says. “I tack these cards up so I can see them when I’m

working. They’re little visual reminders to stay on track, particularly when I’m getting ready for an exhibition and need to produce a large body of work. And I use the white side. I don’t like the lines; too structured,” she says with a smile.

This whimsical approach to project management is typical of Domingue. A graphic designer for more than 30 years, she loves to experiment — with words, subject matter, media, and techniques. Domingue was drawn to art from an early age and opted for a career in



DOMINGUE'S BACKGROUND in illustration and graphic design is revealed in her simple, yet powerful forms and broad planes of color. Reduced to their essence, these boats convey the energy of the waterfront in a fresh visual shorthand. A tugboat painting (FACING PAGE) sends a softer, moodier message.

graphic design because, she acknowledges, it seemed like the most practical way to make a living while keeping a foot in the arts world. But in 2012, after three decades of commercial work, she decided to leave agency employment and commit herself to making art full time. "It was a bit scary to take the leap," she says, "but it's the best thing I've ever done."

Today, Domingue spends her days rendering quintessential images of life in New England — boats, barns, and the tightknit rows of brick facades so common to mill towns — in a fresh, semi-abstract style. "I like having fun with serious topics," Domingue says. "A high-realism approach is tedious for me; I appreciate the skills of those who work that way, but being methodical when I paint is just not satisfying to me. I'm not consciously striving to be abstract or real. I just enjoy toying with that line, in some instances making images more concrete and at other times blurring the edges."

The artist's penchant for play is also on

Share our good nature...

miles of forests, wildlife preserves and conservation areas of unspoiled nature walks and hiking trails. Paddle through scenic inland waterways flowing directly into the Atlantic Ocean, giving way to 100 miles of pristine shoreline. An assortment of dazzling birds throughout South County begin their migrating adventure to southern wintering grounds. South County remains one of nature's best kept secrets.

2016 South County Events

- Annual Folk Art Quilt Show at The South County Museum Sept 16 – 18
- Misquamicut Fall Fest Sept 16 – 18
- Brews & Blues Beer Tasting Sept 23
- Harvest Festival at Smith's Castle Sept 24 – 25
- Courthouse Center for the Arts/Aztec Two Step Sept 24
- RI Lighthouse Cruises Oct 1 – 31
- Yankee Steam Up at NE Wireless & Steam Museum Oct 1
- Annual Cowboy Rendezvous Oct 7 – 9
- 19th Annual Guy Fawkes Bonfire Night Oct 8
- The Granite Theatre/You're a Good Man Charlie Brown Oct 14 – Nov 13
- Kenyon's Autumn Tour Weekend & Clam Cakes/Chowder Event Oct 22 – 23

Photographer: John Woodmansee

SOUTH COUNTY

TOURISM COUNCIL

Free Southern Rhode Island
 Vacation Guide
800.548.4662
Southcountryri.com

the home page of her website, which informs visitors that they've landed in a place that offers "Messy, uncommon, friendly contemporary art." And Domingue delivers at every turn. Her bold shapes, rich colors, and heavily textured images provide viewers with easy entree into coastline and countryside — whether through an iconic silhouette of a New England barn, a riot of blooms in a summer garden, or the muscular lines of a working trawler making its way back to shore. "I'm fascinated with landscapes and structures," she says, "but I like to take people on a very different path with recognizable imagery." It is a goal she realizes by sketching out an initial concept with quick, clean lines rendered in ink, graphite, or color pencil and then adding thick, broad planes of acrylic paint with a palette knife.

"This is a landscape" is often one's first-blush impression of her images, but gazing at them, it becomes clear that it is not just the beauty of the landscape or structure



1 Freeway Drive, Cranston, RI
401.467.0200

SHOWROOM HOURS:
Wednesdays 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

OTHER LOCATIONS:
Fall River, Hyannis, Plainville, MA
HVAC Locations Avon, Woburn MA
& East Hartford, CT

bathsplashshowroom.com

victoria ⊕ albert®
volcanic limestone baths



RENJEAU GALLERIES

FINE ART | RESTORATION | FRAMING



Urns | 30x30

79 Worcester St. | Natick, MA 01760
508.655.5121 | www.renjeau.com

ART



DOMINGUE'S WATERFRONT PAINTINGS COVER A gamut of iconic images from the single fisherman or woman to sturdy trawlers to mighty tugboats. Canvases await the next step (FACING PAGE) in the artist's New Hampshire studio.

Custom Furniture ● Home Furnishings ● Interior Design
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



15 Monument Street Concord, MA
(978)-369-2000
Tues-Sat 10am -5pm
www.thecottage.com

that Domingue captures but also the way in which humans fit into that setting. “I think people have every right to impact the world,” says the artist. “I’m not advocating for nature untouched by man. I think that protection and shelter are really important, but I also believe we must be respectful of our surroundings.”

Domingue respects the viewer’s role in the process of enjoying a work of art as well, an inclination she traces to her nascent days as an illustrator and designer. “When I started my first agency job as a graphic designer in Providence, my boss taught me to work in watercolor,” she says. “It became a wonderful counterpoint to the computerized design I was doing, where everything was so refined and a bit distant. I loved the physicality of painting — the roughly textured papers and the serendipitous happenings that occurred when I slopped the water and color around, the pigments running in some places and settling within the valleys of the paper in others.” When she shifted to canvas, she chose acrylics rather than oils for the way in which the medium mimicked watercolor, with pigments that dissolved easily when moistened and that offered similar motility while wet. “I’m not

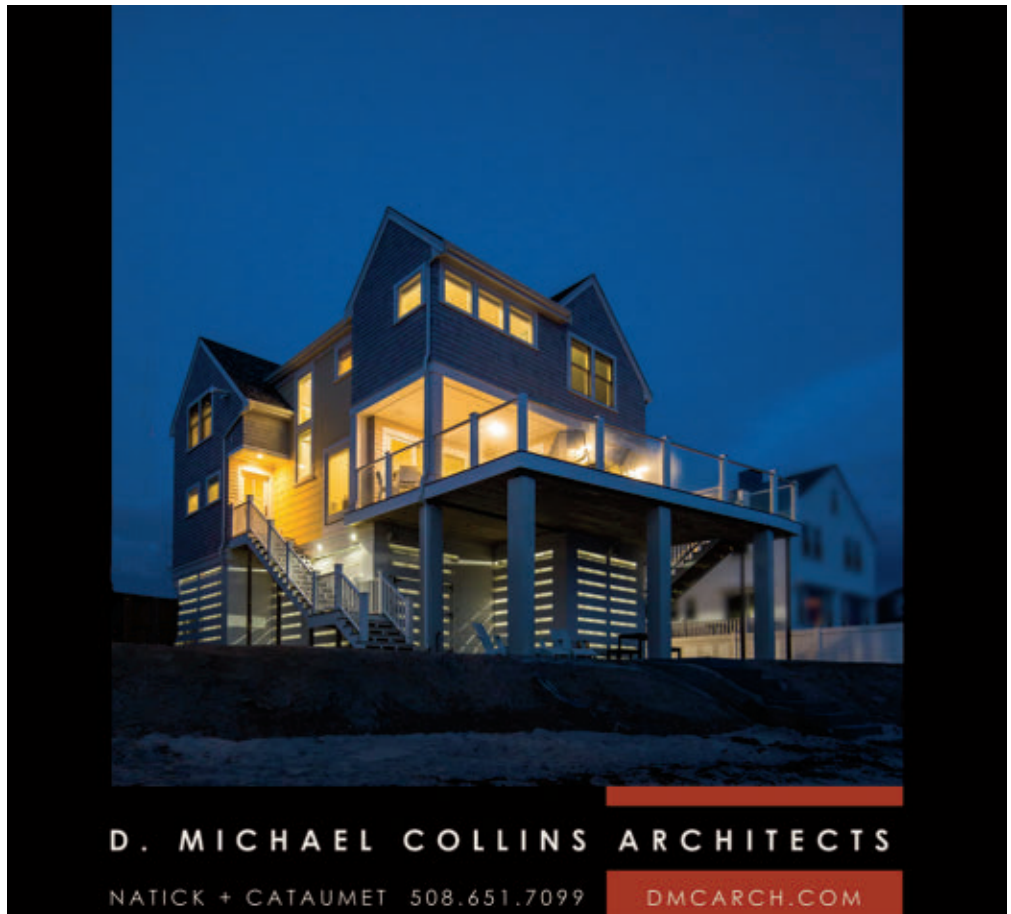


obsessed with pristine surfaces, and that allows me to be more flexible and spontaneous in my approach.” Sometimes, Domingue says, she doesn’t even finish the surface of a piece completely. “It invites participation and allows viewers to finish out the piece themselves, maybe even apply a different interpretation.”

Domonic Boreffi, owner of Gallery Antonia in Chatham, Massachusetts, has represented Domingue for nearly a decade and says that it’s precisely this easy, accessible style that attracts clients to her work. “Many gallery visitors remark on Ann’s ability to convey emotions through day-to-day imagery,” he says, “and she’s fearless when it comes to taking on new subject matter or trying new painting techniques. I love her experimentation with texture and surfaces.”

Whatever her means of expression — computer design, watercolors, pencils, or acrylics — Domingue’s impetus has remained the same: to impart a sense of joy and accessibility to her work. “The medium doesn’t matter to me, it’s just a tool. It’s the playful, childlike quality that appeals to me. I’m not trying to intimidate the viewer; my aim is happiness.” ♣

📍 Ann Trainor Domingue 39 High Street, Goffstown, NH; anntrainordomingue.com.



D. MICHAEL COLLINS ARCHITECTS

NATICK + CATAUMET 508.651.7099

DMCARCH.COM



Ugol Woodworks LLC

Custom Woodworking to fit your lifestyle

Pawtucket RI
401.378.7583

www.ugol-wood.com