

MONICA J RICH

Bio/About

Monica J Rich is an architect and painter living in Brooklyn. She grew up in Manhattan with a strong background in art, having worked at the Asia House Society during school and taken classes at the Arts Students League. She had a one person show as a senior at her high school, where Thomas Hoving, then head of the Metropolitan Museum, saw her work and purchased a piece. Although accepted to Cornell as a Fine Arts major, she decided to study architecture. However, she still took fine arts classes and did an independent study with artist Sandy Winters.

She took a hiatus from painting, while raising her two sons and having a career in architecture. Upon returning she decided to paint in gouache, instead of oils as before, due to gouache being more environmentally friendly and water soluble. Over the last ten years she has continued to explore gouache as a medium for her landscape paintings, whose subjects have been drawn from extensive domestic and international travel. Recently she has started painting Still Lifes which are a mix of gouache and watercolor.

After a trip to Rome and Sicily, a few years ago, she began painting ruins and ancient sites that she saw there. She is particularly drawn not to the large temples, amphitheaters or arenas, but the ruins or the quarries, which are the bi-products of these large buildings and sites. Also in a recent trip to Tuscany she has painted the hill towns such as San Gimignano. More recently she has started to explore the landscape of Long Island's north shore and Brooklyn.

Until recently she has not shared her work with the public, but her recent paintings inspired by the ancient Italian sites has led to her desire to show her work publicly. She was included in exhibits at the **Greenpoint Gallery** and the **Ground Floor Gallery** both in Brooklyn. She was also chosen to be included in the prestigious **Studio Montclair Visions** show of **2019**.

Later in **2019** she was included in the **Fall Salon Show** in LIC, and **Gowanus Open Studios** show, in which she was also included in **2021 and 2022**. She has exhibited at **Las Lagunas Gallery** in California in **2021, 2022 and 2023**, and also included in the **"We are Still Here"** show in Brooklyn. In **2022** she was one of six artists featured in **Cold Air Fine Art Landscape show**, and also included in **Arts Gowanus Brooklyn Utopias**. Her landscapes were featured by **Atelier Canal** in July **2022**. She was most recently included in the juried Small Works show in December **2022** at **Gallery 440**. In June of 2023 she was recently included in a show at Rochester Contemporary Art, and will be included in the ArtsGowanus show "Together we will" opening June 1. She was also included in shows at **B-Dry Goods Gallery** and **Amos Eno Gallery** both in **Summer 2023**

Artist Statement

As a formally trained architect I learned about design and construction. As an artist, I became fascinated by the way nature has been chosen to offset structures using plant growth or other

natural means. It's as if one is viewing architecture in reverse. Upon returning to painting, I felt strongly about using environmentally friendly paints and turned to gouache. I build up the surface of the paintings gradually, which is how I achieve opacity and texture. I have set up my own still lifes and painted them in order to further explore light and shadow.

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