

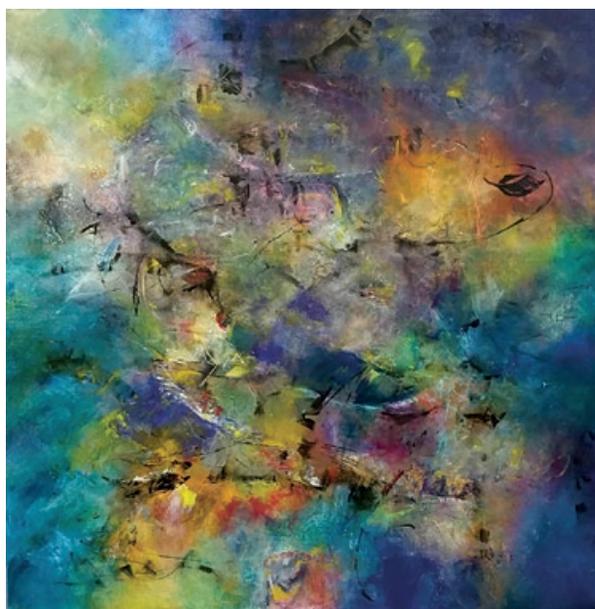


ALETA PIPPIN

# The art of exploration



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In Aleta Pippin’s new abstract works, she creates a world for her audience, and then lets them populate it with their own visions, fantasies, characters and ideas.

“I’m not really trying to create an image of something ‘real.’ I heard Gerhard Richter say—I’m paraphrasing—that ‘you can’t think of anything while you’re painting. Painting is another form of thinking.’ I would add ‘and communicating,’” says Pippin. “It is up to the viewer to spend the time with an abstract painting, bringing their life experiences and perceptions to it. I’ve created the world for them to enjoy and in order to do that, they must explore it.”

*Aleta Pippin: Back to the Future...The Art of Exploration*, Pippin’s new solo exhibition, will offer many new ways to explore her vibrant abstracts when it opens September 23 at Pippin Contemporary in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Pippin, who grew up in the desert near Palm Springs, California, says she is inspired by light and color, particularly the way she can manipulate them onto her compositions, be it with a paintbrush or other tools. “My use of color is innate. I love it! When I first began painting, I’d literally squirt out every color I owned, then try to use all in one painting. Since then I’ve restricted my palette,” she says. “When I start painting, I just begin applying color. I don’t know whether I even have a color scheme in mind, I just start. Lately I’ve been applying multiple

colors then washing them [with turpentine] and letting them run. The blend of colors that results begin leading me to a design. Usually I use palette knives to apply color and once in a while brushes. Incorporating brushes into my work is new in that I haven’t used them in 10 years.”

Works in the new show include *The Edge*, which features a rich diversity of colors merging and pivoting into each other across a shimmering plain with dark objects in the foreground, and *The Portal*, with ballet-like pirouettes of emotion and color emerging from evocative greens, yellows and blues. In *Joy Spreads, Pass It On*, Pippin allows a cosmic cloud of orange and red to absorb a small constellation of greens and blues.

“I always want to convey joy in some manner, whether it’s joyful color, an intriguing design, pleasing contrasts—my goal is to uplift. I heard a very wise person recently say, ‘What do you want to leave the [viewer] with?’” Pippin says. “Color has a physiological effect on us, whether we’re aware of it or not. We are translators of energy—vibration. Just as you may hear a moving passage in music and tears come without beckoning, color has the same ability to bring us to tears, to be so moved by the beauty. Those feelings are usually beyond our ability to verbally express and those are the feelings I’d like my viewers and collectors to have.” ●

- 1  
*The Portal*, oil,  
48 x 48"
- 2  
*Energy Abounds*, oil,  
48 x 48"
- 3  
*Joy Spreads, Pass It  
On*, oil on linen,  
60 x 60"
- 4  
*The Edge*, oil, 36 x 60"



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*“Aleta is revisiting her initial spark for painting and is producing the vibrant abstract oil paintings that are her quintessential style. It’s going to be a unique insight to her true artistic passions and emotional connection to creating art.”*

—Kelly Skeen, marketing director and gallerist, Pippin Contemporary