

Spaces of Uncertainty Artist Bios

The painter **VALERI LARKO** is known for her large scale, richly detailed urban and industrial landscapes in oil. She studied painting at the DuCret School of the Arts in Plainfield, NJ and at the Arts Students League in NYC. In 2004 she moved from NJ to New Rochelle where she currently lives and works, finding inspiration in the decaying and abandoned structures of NYC's urban fringe. She paints on site in the open air in all seasons, working in vacant lots and other derelict areas, often revisiting the same location for weeks and months until her painting is completed. She says, "The process of painting on location over a long period of time is crucial to my working method because it allows me to form a deeper connection to a particular place through careful observation and personal interaction with the people I meet there. This makes the method by which I work as important as the final painting." She has been widely exhibited, nationally and internationally, including at the Lyons Wier Gallery, NYC, WallWorks NY, the Bruton Street Gallery, London, the Morris Museum, Morristown, NJ, The New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, the Katonah Museum of Art, NY and the National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC and many others. In 2016 she was featured in a major solo exhibition at the Bronx Museum of the Arts entitled *Bronx Focus*. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards and in 2000 was awarded a major mural commission from NJ Transit and the NJ Council of the Arts for NJ's Secaucus Transfer Station. She is the recipient of numerous notable awards and recognitions including from the Joyce Dulka Art Foundation, the George Sugarman Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts Strategic Opportunity Grant, New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship and an Artist in Residence grant from the Newark Museum.

The photographer **LINDA KUEHNE** is also fascinated by transience in the built environment, although her focus is more specifically on the suburbs, where she documents the deteriorating commercial sprawl and disused retail structures of the 50s and 60s. For the last ten years she's been photographing empty convenience stores, abandoned fast food restaurants and vacant storefronts documenting what she calls the "Dream Deferred" or "Architecture of Nowhere". These abandoned buildings represent for her the end of an era of American suburban expansion as people gravitate to the cities, and local commerce is increasingly being replaced by online shopping. Linda Kuehne grew up in Long Island and studied at Sarah Lawrence College, NY and SUNY Purchase. She now lives in Pound Ridge, NY. She's been exhibited widely in the Northeast, with solo shows at the Katonah Museum of Art in 2017, the A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, the Silvermine Arts Center, CT and group shows at the Neuberger Museum, NY and the Hammond Museum, NY. In 2018 she was selected for inclusion in the Katonah Museum of Art's Tri-State Triennial and the Silvermine Arts Center highly regarded *Art of the Northeast* show in New Canaan, CT.