

An abstract painting with a textured, layered appearance. The background is a mix of warm, earthy tones including yellows, oranges, and browns. There are prominent, vibrant red areas, particularly in the lower-left and lower-right corners, which appear to be made of thick, expressive brushstrokes. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and organic form.

LINDA McCRAY

Press Kit

THE SPIRITUAL IN ABSTRACT

Paintings by Linda McCray



ABOUT LINDA McCRAY

Linda McCray, MFA, is an American visual artist whose studio is nestled in the solitude of the Rocky Mountains of Montana.

McCray's boundary-transcending abstract spiritual paintings have been exhibited in the US and England; published in Belgium, Germany, Canada, and the United States; and are in public and private collections. Private collectors and organizations have commissioned McCray to create paintings that speak of their mission.

As an adjunct professor of art, she taught for Loyola University Chicago, The University of Mary, Helena College: The University of Montana, and Carroll College. She has lectured at art museums, universities, and conferences; written articles for national magazines; served as art consultant; and been an artist-in-residence at the Holter Museum of Art and Blessed Trinity Catholic Community.

She graduated cum laude from Washington State University with a BA in Fine Arts, and the University of Montana with a MFA in Painting and Drawing.





THE SPIRITUAL IN ABSTRACT: paintings by Linda McCray, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, Montana

PRESS

"I personally find myself struggling to understand the meaning of our internal 'light' or 'energy,' but when I look at Linda's work I always feel a sense of power emanating from her paintings. I couldn't tell you whether or not I am a 'spiritual' person, but again, when you stand in front of her pieces, there is a sense of something happening."

Chris Riccardo
Former Executive Director of the Holter Museum of Art
Professional Artist
Co-founder of The Omerta Arts Syndicate
Helena, Montana

"Motivated by the pursuit of spiritual meaning and enlightenment in her work, McCray uses light, color, and texture in her powerful, abstract compositions to create emotionally charged images which afford the faithful instruction, the seeker time for reflection, and the pilgrim a place of refuge."

H. Rafael Chacón, Ph.D.
Bruce and Suzanne Crocker Director of the Montana Museum of Art & Culture
Professor of Art History and Criticism, The University of Montana-Missoula
Missoula, Montana



LIGHT FROM LIGHT, 72 x 114 x 2 in., acrylic on wood. Red paint near the palm symbolizes death and a ray of grace from above conveys the Holy Spirit coming to guide us along our way.

"We found our audience bring their own tales and spiritual meaning to each of the works—and were moved to find that someone could so beautifully illuminate their emotions."

Blair Williams
Owner, The Art Spirit Gallery
Commissioner, Idaho Commission on the Arts
Board Member, Idaho Humanities Council
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

"How Beautiful! I feel your painting speaks to this time!"

Julia Becker, Professor of Fine Art
University of Providence
Great Falls, Montana

"Linda, your art always lifts me to a place of peace and calm. No exaggeration. It is truly inspired, and it inspires me to see things differently."

Eileen Brody, Art Collector
Bellingham, Washington



UNEXPECTED BLESSING, 60 x 24 x 2 in., acrylic on wood. Modern gold drip lines convey an unexpected blessing pouring out of the blue. Rough textured dark paint is highlighted in gold, expressing how through it all we are touched by the divine.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I translate universal spiritual truths into luminous abstract paintings that speak to others, regardless of their traditions.

To form visible signs of invisible grace, I use abstraction which—so powerfully through light, color, and texture—speaks directly to the heart.

I layer my paintings with symbolism. To create symbolism, I use abstract elements, certain materials, and selected painting methods. For example, the abstract element and universal symbol of light underlie all of my paintings. I image my Creator as light. To capture feelings of the warmth and peace of the divine presence, I use a number of techniques including the old masters' use of glazes to capture luminosity. I integrate found objects that abound with symbolism, such as sand from the River Jordan, ashes and palms. The torn-like edges symbolize that we are a part of something much greater—our collective Creator.

I sign my paintings with my initials going outside a box, because my art doesn't fit into any art style box. I create from my heart. I don't follow trends. I'm an independent artist.

All cultures throughout the ages have created spiritual art—my ethereal abstraction and soulful conceptual work brings up-to-date the oldest theme in art, the spiritual. While my provocative paintings have specific meaning to me, I underlie my transcendent illuminations with cross-cultural sensibilities to ignite spiritual curiosity and unique experiences for all.

I create small to large scale acrylic paintings on floating wood panel.

CURRICULUM VITAE

FULL CV AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

EDUCATION

Art Education

- 2007 The University of Montana-Missoula, Missoula, MT,
Master of Fine Art in Fine Art: Painting and Drawing (MFA)
- 1981 Washington State University, Pullman, WA, Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (BA),
Cum Laude

Artist-In-Residence

- 2020 Artist-In-Residence, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT
- 2009 Artist-In-Residence, Blessed Trinity Catholic Community, Missoula, MT

SOLO EXHIBITIONS: SELECT RECORD

- 2023 *The Way*, The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, MN
- 2020 *Linda McCray: The Spiritual in Abstract*, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT
- 2019 *Linda McCray: Manna*, TWO Gallery in 1+1=1 Gallery, Helena, MT
- 2016 *Infinite Luminosity: Abstract Paintings by Linda McCray*, Holter Museum of Art,
Helena, MT
- Linda McCray Retrospective: 5 decades of art at the Myrna*, The Myrna Loy Center's
Jailhouse Gallery, Helena, MT
- 2009 *Agape: Abstract Spiritual Paintings of Love*, Carroll College, Helena, MT
- 2008 *The True Light*, Flatiron Gallery, Billings, MT
- Dust to Dust*, The University of Montana-Helena, Helena, MT
- 2007 *Aggiornamento: Opening the Windows*, MFA Thesis Exhibition,
The University of Montana-Missoula, Missoula, MT
- Aggiornamento*, The University of Montana-Helena College of Technology,
Helena, MT
- 2006 *Behind and Beyond*, Miles Community College, Miles City, MT

SMALL GROUP EXHIBITIONS: SELECT RECORD

- 2022 *The Bridge Between*, The Art Spirit Gallery, Coeur d'Alene, ID
- 2021 *Light*, 1+1=1 Gallery, Helena, MT
- Flight*, 1+1=1 Gallery, Helena, MT

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2014-16 Adjunct Professor of Art, Loyola University Chicago,
Institute of Pastoral Studies, Chicago, IL
- 2010-15 Adjunct Professor of Art, The University of Mary-Bismarck, ND
- 2007-14 Adjunct Professor of Art, Helena College: The University of Montana,
Helena, MT
- 2002-3 Adjunct Professor of Art, Carroll College, Helena, MT



CALLED TO THE LIGHT, 60 x 60 x 2 in., acrylic on wood. Through the fog of life, we are called to the light. Our difficult times are expressed by moody subdued colors, stormy abrasive textures and modern drip lines. Unclear luminous yellows, purples and blues speak of our uncertain times.

PRESS: SELECT ARTICLES

- 2020 *Painting Toward the Light*, Marga Lincoln, YourTime: Independent Record, Helena, MT
- 2012 *Painter's Work Melds Art & Spirituality*, Susan Olp, Billings Gazette, December 29, 2012, Billings, MT
- On Art: Dust to Dust by Linda McCray*, Lois Huey-Heck, The Christian Century, March 8, 2011, Chicago, IL
- 2008 *The True Light: Abstract Spiritual Painting by Linda McCray*, Betty White, The Montana Arts & Culture Magazine, August/September 2008, Billings, MT

ART COLLECTIONS: SELECT LIST

The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, MN
Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Helena, MT
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Leavenworth, KS
Lake Burien Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
Montana Museum of Art and Culture, The University of Montana-Missoula,
Skaggs Building, Missoula, MT
Helena Regional Airport, Helena, MT

JURIED EXHIBITION RECORD: SELECT LIST

2022 *Creation*, Whitworth University, Gonzaga University and St John's Cathedral,
Spokane, WA

2021 *Unwrap The Creativity-25th Annual Small Works Invitational*, The Art Spirit Gallery,
Coeur d'Alene, ID

2019 *40th Annual Juried Exhibit: Traveling Collection 2019*, WaterWorks Art Museum,
Miles City, MT

2018 *Non-Objective Abstract National Exhibition*, 3 Square Art Gallery, Fort Collins, CO
Winter Wonderland, WaterWorks Art Museum, Miles City, MT
The Cross is our Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO
All You Need Is Love, Montana Modern Fine Art, Kalispell, MT

2017 *Celebrating Color and Light*, Fredericksburg Center Creative Arts,
Fredericksburg, VA
Confluence, Waterworks Art Museum, Miles City, MT

2014 *Sacred Rhythms*, Art at the Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, KY
Celebrating Wyoming's Wilderness Traveling Art Exhibition, Sagebrush Community
Arts Center, Sheridan, WY
Concerning the Spiritual in Art, Lynchburg Art Club, Lynchburg, VA
4th National Juried Art Show, Sagebrush Community Art Center, Sheridan, WY

2013 *Invitational Salon Exhibition of Small Works*, New Arts Program, Kutztown, PA

2012 *Invitational Salon Exhibition of Small Works*, New Arts Program, Kutztown, PA
Light & Shadow, Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts, Fredericksburg, VA

2011 *Window to the Divine*, Madden Museum of Art, Denver, CO,
Invitational Salon Exhibition of Small Works, New Arts Program, Kutztown, PA

2010 *Invitational Salon Exhibition of Small Works*, New Arts Program, Kutztown, PA

2009 *Light Fantastic Exhibition*, The Main Street Gallery, Groton, NY
Motivation: Behind Good and Evil, Caladan Gallery, Cambridge, MA
A Fine Line, Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts, Fredericksburg, VA
Invitational Salon Exhibition of Small Works, New Arts Program, Kutztown, PA
Powerful & Fragile Earth, Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts,
Fredericksburg, VA

2008 *Invitational Salon Exhibition of Small Works*, New Arts Program, Kutztown, PA

2007 *Invitational Salon Exhibition of Small Works*, New Arts Program, Kutztown, PA
Exploring Spirituality, The Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts,
Fredericksburg, VA

2006 *Art Sagrado '06*, Concordia University, Austin TX
38th Annual Art Auction and Exhibition, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings, MT
Art Auction Exhibition, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT



PASSION TO PENTECOST, 72 x 114 x 2 in., acrylic on wood. I symbolized five wounds with the abstract element of red drips of paint; resurrection with gold drips upward; and the event of Pentecost with a few white brushstrokes evoking a dove and the color red flaming down from above.



CONTACT INFO

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