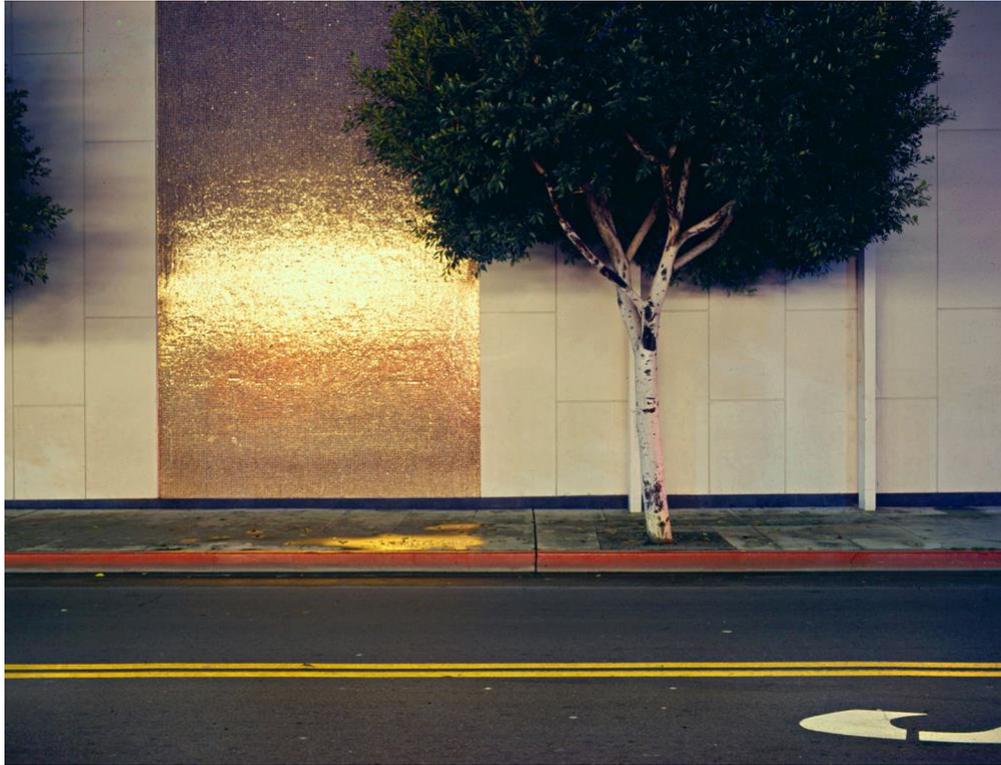


## Liz Goldner – Personal Narrative



As a freelance art and cultural writer, I cover a broad range of visual art related topics in my articles and reviews for many publications and several books. While pursuing in-depth reportage, I dialogue with artists, listening to their passions and frustrations about their work and lives.

I grew up in the New York City suburbs with culturally adventurous parents who introduced me to the arts. I later wrote and edited for magazines, often visiting museums on weekends. My family was also politically and socially aware, following the news, advocating for minorities and people in need. I have followed their example, infusing my art reviews with socially conscious perspectives.

After working as a writer and editor on both coasts, fortuitous events two decades ago helped advance my career as an arts journalist. In 1999, I joined an Orange County (California) Museum of Art docent training program with its emphasis on art history. In 2000, I published a review on that museum's exhibition for a lifestyle magazine. That publication then asked me to be its regular art reviewer. I plunged into that assignment joyfully, while expanding my understanding of art; as that opportunity became the genesis of my career as a regularly published art journalist.

Fueled by my passion for the arts, I have — over the last two decades — written nearly 700 art-related articles for dozens of publications including LA Times, Artillery, HuffPost, KCET Artbound, LA Weekly, OC Register and LA Review of Books.

Inspired to challenge myself as an art critic/reviewer, I continually read art reviews in major newspapers and magazines, study art history and meet with artists and curators. Every assignment presents an opportunity to learn about art movements and styles, to meet with people in the arts, and to develop my skills as an art writer.

I have won many art journalism awards, including one for a review of Cheech Marin's art collection. I wrote: "The symbolism in many pieces harkens back to the 1960s Chicano civil rights movement in East L.A, El Movimiento, while the iconography in other works references Aztlán." I have also reviewed work by Chicano artists Carlos Almaraz, Judith Hernández, Gilbert Luján, Frank Romero and others.

I wrote a book with Laguna Beach photographic artist Mark Chamberlain about environmental art. The book, "Laguna Canyon Project, Refining Artivism," describes the development of an art project that helped save Laguna Canyon from suburban encroachment. I have written many articles about environmental art with the belief in the oneness of humanity and the environment.

I have addressed human rights in my reviews, including one on artist Jorg Dubin, i.e.: "His final submission to the Arts Commission was 'Black Lives Matter,' a sculptural work depicting a raised arm and fist symbolic of the BLM movement. It is a timely testament to the horrors occurring in our nation, and to the healing powers of people uniting behind a common humanitarian cause."

I have published dozens of articles referencing the UC Irvine art department. One article reads: "UCI in its early days was a haven of forward-thinking creativity where instructors transcended the limits of formal art styles, while employing tolerance, dialogue, diversity and experimentation in their teaching methods."

My art articles are like works of art, with words performing as dabs of paint, and the writings becoming exquisite, harmonious compositions, as in: "The series portrays a mystical sweep of the ocean."

I have recently expanded my perspectives as an art journalist. In an AICA newsletter article, comparing our pandemic to the dark mood in mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Europe and to surrealism, I wrote, "When this pandemic is over, we will discover that people in the art world have created work that not only expresses the era we are living in, but—as with the surrealist movement—have produced outstanding art pieces."

I am working on a book with Mark and Jan Hilbert, co-founders, Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University. It describes their life-long passion for collecting art, leading to their creation of a world-class museum, displaying California Scene Painting.

I am continuing to write more socially conscious art reviews and books, exploring how artists and supporters improve our world through their work, while expressing their authentic selves.