

## The Art Scene: Judith Linscott

Susan Rand always wanted to paint. But despite a self-professed "strong visual awareness," she thought she could not draw. "I thought you had to be born with it," she said during a recent interview in her Salisbury studio.

So when Rand attended Goddard College, she studied sculpting and print making. Eventually, after she moved to the Northwest Corner and had children, she specialized in portrait photography. She was very good at it; her pictures were quirky and expressive, not the usual sweet fare. But she knew she wanted more.

"I started hand-coloring the photographs and then I started painting on them and the more I painted the more I wanted to learn to draw."

In 1999, when Rand was working as a real-estate agent, she fell off a scaffolding while photographing a house-in-progress. She landed in the hospital and remembers "my subconscious kept screaming, 'go paint! go paint!'" So she started painting, first taking classes locally, then thinking about graduate school and then deciding to "choose who to study with."

She remembers wanting

to make up for lost time, wanting to learn everything fast. "It was much harder than I thought it would be," she said. "I realized, this is hard work. I know what I want to say, I just don't have the capability to say it. Part of me said, 'Slow down. Take it easy. Practice, practice, practice.'" She did. And studied in Boston, in Vermont. Most recently Italy. "I'll always be a student."

In 2003, five years after she began to paint seriously, Rand had a show at the Norfolk Library. Susan Galluzzo, co-director with husband Tino of Lakeville's White Gallery, saw the show, called Rand and asked to represent her.

"I said, 'You're kidding.'" They weren't. Rand had her first show at the **White Gallery** two years ago, and will open her second there with Pine Plains sculptor Lyndon Preston this week, Sept. 6, with an artists' reception Saturday, Sept. 8 from 5 to 7 p.m., during **Lakeville's Gallery Night**. (Coincidentally, a show of works by Ellen Emmet Rand, the grandmother of Susan's husband, Salisbury's First Selectman Curtis Rand, opened at the **Hotchkiss School's Tremaine Gallery** on Tuesday, with a reception also from 5 to 7 on Saturday).

Her show will be work

from the last two years, not (or so she said before leaving) work she has done while away. "I don't want the pressure of painting for the show," she said.

Her work now includes landscapes and rural and urban scenes, sometimes "with ugly buildings on the side." What Rand is most interested in now is finding color patterns and shapes, "learning more about the quality of light and reflection . . . what lurks in the shadows."

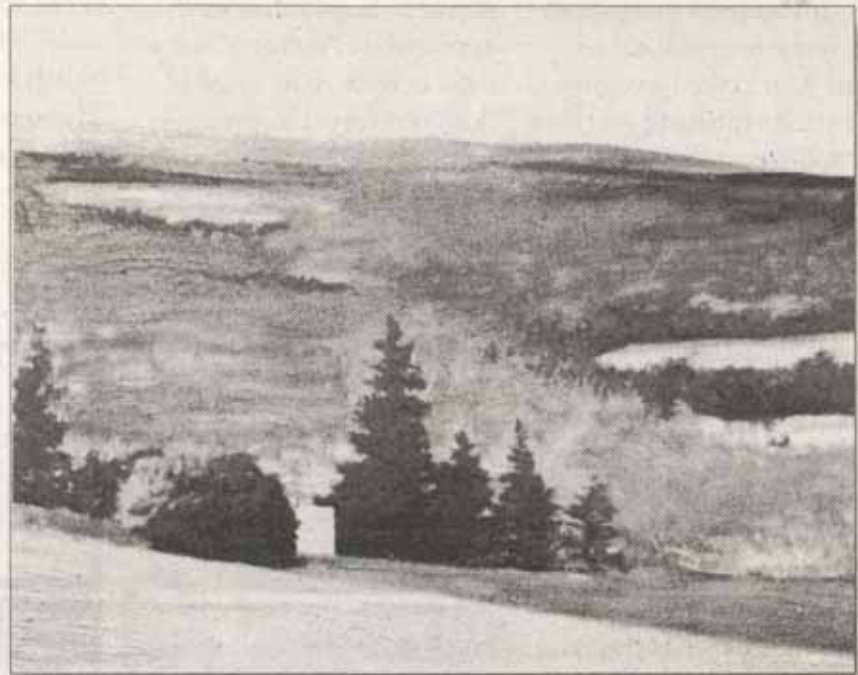
She's looking for an emotional response to what she sees, she says. "I don't want to paint pretty pictures."

Rand seems still somewhat amazed that she's doing what she always wanted to do and didn't think she could.

So does she finally think of herself as a painter? Rand takes a deep breath. "Yes. Yes, I do."

Through Oct. 3. Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. [www.thewhitegalleryart.com](http://www.thewhitegalleryart.com).

# A Painter, At Last



"Sharon Flats,"  
oil on canvas,  
by Susan Rand