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Turning life into art as a statement

Artist uses experience with fracking to inspire her work

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JAN 5, 2018

BRIANA O'HARA

Reporter

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"I Love New York," a painting by Linda Finch as part of her collection "Channeling Moses." Finch said this is one of the humorous pieces in the collection because "I love New York" is spelled out in the cows. She said the red mechanical device is called a Christmas tree, which is a flare well filled with toxic gasses. Finch said cows sometimes wander near these flare mills. (Photo courtesy of Linda Finch)

NORTHVILLE — Local artist, Linda Finch, uses her art to spread awareness and to teach the community on environmental issues such as fracking.

Finch's collection, "*Channeling Moses*" is being displayed at the Sacandaga Valley Arts Network located at the Northville Public Library now through March 1.

The "*Channeling Moses*" exhibition is a visual diary that illustrates the impact that some gas companies have on rural New York state.

“I hope people look at this and learn what gas companies are and what gas companies aren’t,” Finch said.

Finch said she got her inspiration to create the fracking art collection from Grandma Moses’s pictorial visions of life in rural New York and Vermont. Finch said Grandma Moses’s style *“was perfect to tell the stories of the travesties that have befallen our farming and rural communities.”*



“Accidents Will Happen,” a painting by Linda Finch as part of her collection “Channeling Moses.” Finch said there are gas compression explosions every single day across the United States. She said gas companies try to take short cuts and because of the quality of gas, local firefighters aren’t able to handle the intense fires. (Photo courtesy of Linda Finch)

Also inspiring the fracking art was Finch’s curiosity as a child when growing up in Gloversville and always seeing the many colors of the Cayadutta Creek. Finch said when she was young she always wondered why the creek

changed colors and as she got older she learned it was due to pollution and the amount of chemical dumping that went into the creek.

“Primarily, I think I’ve always been seriously interested in environmental issues,” Finch said.

Finch said there are 18 or 19 pieces to the collection, all telling her experiences with pollution and fracking when living in rural New York. When growing up in Gloversville, Finch said she believed all the chemical dumping into the Cayadutta Creek caused a lot of people to have health problems, including cancer. Finch then moved to a home in the in the Finger Lakes. After moving there, a large industrial gas compression station was built next to her residence, causing her to move to her current home in Northville.

Finch said New York state continues to allow gas companies from Virginia, Texas and Ohio to access gas in the region in areas such as Otsego, Oneida, Herkimer, Fulton, Montgomery and Schoharie counties. These gas companies are causing the build-up of fossil fuel infrastructure which can pollute water, land and air.

Finch said examples of how the build-up of fossil fuel infrastructure can pollute water, land and air are compression stations, dumping sites, underwater storage, salt mines and pipelines.



Linda Finch, artist who created the "Channeling Moses" exhibition which was inspired by fossil fuel infrastructure that can pollute water, land and air. (Photo submitted)

Finch said there was a compression station built 1,200 feet from her home in the Finger Lakes which is why she moved to Northville. There are also pipelines being built under towns and farms which are double pipelines. She said liquid propane is being stored in salt wells near Seneca Lake which provides water to 100,000 people. She said these liquid propanes are being poorly built and could possibly collapse. Finch said New York State accepts dump waste such as fracking waste into rivers and that has two types of radioactive material that is being dumped into water.

"Huge dumps are paying towns to do this," Finch said. "Too often towns are influenced by tax paid by big companies."

Finch is currently working on a new collection on the Victorian Sacandaga Park which will focus on the historic Sacandaga Park from the early 1900s. For this collection, her inspiration came from past summers spent at camp in Northampton and hearing stories of Sacandaga Park from relatives.

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Fracking art on display at Fenimore

- Sep 7, 2017
-

The Fenimore Art Museum is showing the complete collection of fracking paintings by artist Linda Finch

Finch's acrylic work in the folk art genre tells stories of her experience fighting against hydraulic fracturing and gas pipeline construction, according to a media release.

According to the release, Finch began the series as she was inspired by Grandma Moses' pictorial visions of life in rural New York and Vermont. "This style was perfect to tell stories of the travesties that have befallen our farming and rural communities," she said, in the release.

Th exhibit will run through Sept. 24.

The museum is at 5798 State Route 80 in Cooperstown. For gallery hours, visit www.fenimoreartmuseum.org.

Thursday, December 27, 2018

ARTS

Artist feels spirit of Grandma Moses when painting (Schenectady Gazette)

Linda Finch, a Gloversville native,

thinks about Grandma Moses every time she sets her

brush to a ca

Karen Bjornland

| [June 14, 2015](#)



"The Thumpers are Coming" by Linda Finch shows the influence of Grandma Moses on her work.

What would Grandma Moses do if gas pipelines suddenly appeared in the countryside she loved to paint?

Linda Finch, a Gloversville native, thinks about the famous American folk artist every time she sets her brush to a canvas.

In fact, Finch believes that her artwork, which depicts the impact of fracking and gas pipelines on New York farmland, comes to her through the spirit of Grandma Moses, who died in 1961 at the age of 101.

"Channeling Grandma: Fracking Paintings by Linda Finch," 17 of her colorful and opinionated folk-art-style paintings, is on exhibit through July 26 at the Bennington Museum in Vermont.

Grandma Moses, also known as Anna Mary Robertson Moses, was born in Greenwich, in New York's Washington County, and lived most of her life in Eagle Bridge, near the Vermont border. The Bennington Museum has the nation's largest public collection of paintings by Grandma Moses.

Finch grew up in Gloversville and graduated from Gloversville High School in 1961.

She has a master's degree in art from SUNY at New Paltz and degree in industrial labor relations from Cornell University.

In 1972, Finch left the area when her husband got a job near Elmira.

The couple currently live in the Finger Lakes region, but their house is for sale and they hope to move back to Fulton County later this year.

Q: Where do you live now?

A: I live in a little town south of Ithaca called Sullivanville in Chemung County. And it looks like I'm going to be living 1,300 feet away from a gas compression station. It looks like it's going to be approved by FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). They are OK-ing it to be built and spew out something like 55,000 tons of particulates and toxic fumes per year. We're wine country. We have wonderful wines. But because we have shale, we're also being attacked by all of these out-of-state companies, from Texas, Arkansas, Ohio and Virginia.

Q: What does a compression station do?

A: It increases the pressure and moves gas along the whole series of pipelines that are going through Madison County, Chemung County and Montgomery County.

Q: You spent many years in Fulton County when the leather industry was still going. Has that influenced your art?

A: That's one of the basic reasons why I'm so sensitive to this whole issue. Growing up in Gloversville, next to the Cayadutta Creek, and watching it change colors every day, from all the dyes poured in it. And then, over the years, watching one by one, family, relatives, neighbors, dropping like flies from very strange cancers.

Q: How did your connection with Grandma Moses begin?

A: I was just thinking one day, if Grandma Moses were alive and she was here and she was under attack by the gas company, how would she approach it? I can't see her standing up at meetings but I bet she would be painting. I did the first one and it was kind of like a little country quilt, with a pattern and the landscape. When I start a canvas, they are all done in my head. I just put it down. It just comes.

Q: You feel the spiritual presence of her? You really feel like she is expressing herself through you?

A: Yes. I feel like she's guiding me.

Q: Tell me about one of the paintings.

A: It's called "Girls, Girls, Girls." It's bright orange and shows some of the social aspects of what happens when 22,000 men move into a county. On a Friday night, you go shopping at a grocery store and you can't find beer or a steak because that's what these guys live on. We have thousands of strangers in town and we have to lock doors, we have to lock garages.

Q: Do you feel that people can relate to your paintings no matter where they live?

A: I think so. It's not just New York. It's in Ohio, it's in the Dakotas and unfortunately, it's heading to Vermont, and that's why they were interested. Not so much that they are going to have fracking but they are looking at pipelines facing them, too, because the gas companies want to get to these ports.

Q: What's it like to work in Moses' folk art style?

A: I do paintings in all styles, I mostly like impressionism but there's a lot to be said for the folk art genre. You don't have to pay any attention to perspective and it's a wonderful way to tell a story.

Q: But is there something insidious in every painting?

A: Oh yeah. The whole thing is really tongue-in-cheek. There are all kinds of different puzzles in there.

Q: Do you have had trouble getting your artwork into galleries?

A: It's been horrible. Business people just hate it. They are getting the benefit: the hotels, the restaurants, the clothing stores. They are putting up these thousands of men. The people on the boards, even nature preserves, I go and I talk to them. They are all thrilled. They go and they present to their board, and someone on their board happens to sell pipes to the gas companies. Or welding supplies. All of a sudden, I'm turned away.

Q: What basic message do you hope to convey in this exhibit?

A: I just think there really is a dedicated attack on the rural environment and agriculture in New York state. No matter how much they protest, these small communities don't have the means to protect themselves or hire these high-priced lawyers. They are just at the mercy of big giant conglomerates. When I come home to visit I am amazed at how little people know about this horrific attack of out-of-state gas companies on New York state's rural communities. I am very passionate about protecting our water, soil and air. It is so shortsighted to sell our beautiful New York to outside corporations who could care less about our quality of life.

Q: What about New York's ban on fracking?

A: I was really thrilled when they did the ban. But it doesn't really offer a great deal of protection from these gigantic dumps. Niagara has a huge dump, Allegany has a dump, Chemung County has a dump and we accept thousands of tons of frack. I think New York state should step up and be a leader as far as alternative energy. It's just crazy that we're stuck in this fossil fuel thing.

Reach Gazette reporter Karen Bjornland at 395-3197 or kbjornland@dailygazette.net.



SVAN ANNOUNCES EXHIBITION ON FRACKING

Posted by [Webmaster](#) | Jan 4, 2018 | [Featured](#), [News](#) | 0 |



Photo submitted

The Sacandaga Valley Arts Network has announced the exhibition Channeling Moses, Fracking Art by Linda Finch, began Dec. 29 and continues through March 1, in the SVAN Gallery in the Northville Public Library at 341 South Third St.

NORTHVILLE — The Sacandaga Valley Arts Network has announced the exhibition Channeling Moses, Fracking Art by Linda Finch, began Dec. 29 and continues through March 1, in the SVAN Gallery in the Northville Public Library at 341 South Third St.

According to a release, this visual diary illustrates the impact that some gas companies are having on rural New York state. Although horizontal fracking is banned (temporary moratorium), the business of gas extraction, transport, and storage are big business, and small villages, communities and their citizens make up part of the landscape that inhabit the same terrain as these energy sources.

Finch began this series as inspired by Grandma Moses's pictorial visions of life in rural New York and Vermont.

"This style was perfect to tell the stories of the travesties that have befallen our farming and rural communities," Finch stated in the release. "The show was first opened at the Bennington Museum in Vermont adjacent to the Moses gallery where it received excellent reviews. It was recently shown at The Fenimore Museum in Cooperstown where Otsego County is fighting their own battles with gas

corporations and land infringement.”

Finch’s acrylic work in folk art genre tells of her own experience living in one such rural hamlet, that of Sullivanville in the Marcellus Shale region of the Finger Lakes. Finch stated in the release, although New York state purports to have a renewal energy plan, the state continues to allow companies, some from Virginia, Texas, Ohio, to access gas in the region and supports the build-up of fossil fuel infrastructure that can pollute our water, land and air. Some companies have recently turned their attention to the Utica Shale region, which includes Otsego, Oneida, Herkimer, Fulton, Montgomery, Schoharie County and others nearby.

Finch was born in Gloversville. She received a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree from the State University at New Paltz. She has additional degrees from Cornell University in industrial labor relations and is retired from the New York State Education Department. Some of her work is in the permanent NYS collection. In addition to painting canvases, Linda also paints murals and has several in homes in Florida and St. Croix and U.S. Virgin Islands.

Growing up near the Cayadutta Creek in her home town made her acutely aware of the effects of pollution on both the natural environment and the health of the people in her neighborhood, the release states. In 2017, she moved to Northville, as her home in the Finger Lakes was no longer safe, due to a large industrial gas compression station built next to her residence.

Finch is currently researching and executing a new collection of works that focuses on historic Sacandaga Park as it was in the early 1900s. Her interest in the area stems from summers spent at camp in the town of Northampton, as well as hearing stories from relatives and mother, Agnes Simonds Lopuch.

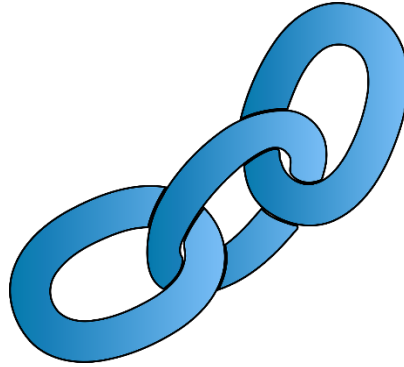


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MOUSE OVER TO STOP ROTATION & READ AD

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

Links of the Day 04/28/15: Anti-Fracking Paintings From Beyond the Grave, 1st-Quarter Reports, and More



Gas & Oil: [Taxation out of control](#) - *"It appears that Governor Kasich has hit on a surefire way to reduce state income taxes for thousands of Ohioans --- eliminate their jobs. The prime "beneficiaries" of this tough love tax treatment would be the quarter million or so men and women whose jobs are supported by..."*

Bennington Museum: [CHANNELING GRANDMA: FRACKING PAINTINGS BY LINDA FINCH](#) - *"Channeling is the belief that a person's body has been taken over by a spirit for the purpose of imparting wisdom and bringing about a conscious transformation. I feel that Anna Moses guided my hands in an effort to inform and educate people to the risks that lay ahead for the American rural landscape. - Linda Finch, Artist"*



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Historic Landmark

History of Town of Northampton

The Town of Northampton is a very old town with a rich history dating back over two hundred years. Many historic buildings & homes still exist today and are carefully maintained to nourish the quaint and charming atmosphere of our town. The lush scenery and numerous waterways make our town an idyllic getaway. There is a lot to tell of the history of the Town of Northampton...check back to this page frequently to view more history as it is added to this page.

[Click HERE to view Town of Northampton HISTORICAL PHOTOS!!!](#)

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Sacandaga Park Prints from Artist Linda Finch



Sacandaga Park paintings from artist Linda Finch:

Paintings are specially printed on archival paper at an art print shop in Scotia, NY

The image colors have been corrected and ink is expensive, that's why these prints are color stable. If someone wants all three prints, because they are a set, Linda usually reduces the price. They are supposed to go together.

People can email Linda at lfinch7777@yahoo.com or call her at 607-207-1564 for prints.

The prints are divided in three sections, each section bought separately (unless entire set purchased at same time for discount):

1. The Station
2. The Midway
3. Sport Island

Large: 24" x 36" \$70 each section

Medium: 16" x 24" \$ \$40 each section

Linda can mail anywhere for \$7.00 extra.

FROM THE STAR GAZETTE NEWSPAPER

Speak out about Horseheads Dominion project

Linda Finch Published 11:25 a.m. ET Aug. 25, 2016



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(Photo: NICK REYNOLDS / Staff Photo)

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At 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Corning Community College campus, Triangle Lounge, in Corning, a law judge from the state Department of Environmental Conservation will hear air quality public testimony that may change your life forever.

If you reside in Sullivanville, northern Horseheads, the Village of Horseheads, Breesport, Erin, Alpine or your children attend Ridge Road Elementary School, you are in a zone targeted to receive 54,000 tons of toxic gases from the proposed Dominion compression station yearly. This exhaust contains lung-damaging particulate matter, toluene, benzene and cancer-causing formaldehyde. In harm's way are pregnant mothers, infants, young children, people with disabilities, people with respiratory problems and the elderly.

Dominion, a Virginia-based company, already has permission to build the 11,010-horsepower facility from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

You have three minutes to express your air quality concerns for yourself, families and neighborhood. You can also contact the governor's office to ask Gov. Andrew Cuomo to deny this permit, as well as emailing the DEC at NewMarketProject@dec.ny.gov.

Please make the effort to let the DEC know that you, your children and your community matters. Your health and the safety of your family depends on your action.

LINDA FINCH
HORSEHEADS

Press Releases: Mohawk News Online, WENY TV Horseheads NY, Star Gazette Elmira NY Newspaper, Daily Gazette Schenectady NY Newspaper

June 19, 2013 - Mohawk Currents

Rectangular Snip

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Linda J. Finch, a painter born and raised in Gloversville, will show some of her work this weekend at a symposium called "Women's Voices for (a) Change" at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs.

Finch, now a resident of Sullivanville, Chemung County, says she has seen firsthand the effects of the recent gas-drilling and hydrofracking boom in New York's Southern Tier. The paintings seen at right (under "Blog Photos") are paintings depicting scenes she has witnessed literally from her backyard.

"'What Would Grandma Moses Do?' is the premise of my series of 14 paintings that document the effects that the gas industry has made on our small village since 2006," she writes. "Painting in the folk-art style popularized by Grandma Moses, I have covered gas exploration and exploitation as huge companies and strangers from Louisiana, Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma and the Dakotas descended on our town. Local hiring? Not much to speak of.

"Far from being anti-business, I am pro-water and pro-farming. New York is famous for its clean water for agriculture, our huge wine industry and its beautiful Finger Lakes. Pennsylvania has lost 17% of its farms since gas drilling/fracking has begun, according to statistics from the U.S. Farm Bureau."

The symposium at Skidmore will take place Friday through Sunday. For more details, see [Women's Voices for \(a\) Change](#).

Finch, a GHS class of 1961 grad, says this series of paintings was completed in part with support from a New York State Council on the Arts grant. The Bennington Folk Art Museum in Vermont will show

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Blog Photos



Image courtesy of Linda J. Finch



Blog Links

- [Women's Voices for \(a\) Change](#)
- [Linda J. Finch on Facebook](#)



June 13, 2013

SULLIVANVILLE -- (WENY) Linda Finch has lived in Sullivanville for 25 years and uses the Southern Tier as her backdrop in all of her art work.

She uses what's called the 'Grandma Moses' style of painting. Kind of a folk art.

"You're leaving perspective behind to get the ultimate message across," Finch said.

And her ultimate message is the topic on a lot of New Yorker's minds.

She added, "It's kind of made it a visual overview or visual diary of gas exploration and gas exploitation."

Gas drilling isn't just something Linda paints. She also experienced it.

Gas companies showed up at her house in 2006 and have been there ever since.

This painting shows the seismic testing trucks coming to her home, her family unaware about what it all meant.

"We were totally ignorant and unprepared for exactly what this was all about. We had no clue," she said.

All of her paintings reflect her concern and confusion towards gas drilling. Each painting telling a different story.

"It's symbolic that you can see certain things about the gas industry but then the darker horses here it's a lot of under current and a lot of things that you can't see," Finch said.

Look closely and you'll notice water in every one of Linda's paintings. It's her main reason behind doing this. She says she's not anti fracking or anti business, she pro clean water.

"It's more of an attempt to make sure that our waters clean," she added.

And she hopes her paintings bring her message to life.