

Checklist*

Fern Bowen

Shanghai Commune, Mustard Patch, n.d.
Oil on canvas, 30 x 40
Collection of the Long Beach Museum of Art,
Gift of the artist 97.24

Pink Lady, ca. 1970s
Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30
Collection of the Long Beach Museum of Art,
Gift of the artist UR1.2003

Carmel Dusk, 2000
Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 24
Collection of Ted and Brenda Sheridan

Still Life, 1976
Oil on canvas, 40 x 30
Collection of Linda and Bill McCullough

Rialto Cannel Venezia, 1970
Watercolor on paper, 10 x 8
Collection of Elaine Ridder

Florence from Fort Belvedere, 1970
Watercolor on paper, 10 x 13
Collection of Elaine Ridder

Aquatic Valet, 1970
Watercolor on paper, 12 x 16
Collection of Elaine Ridder

Lunch Gathering, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 48
Collection of Don and Madeline Heimark

Untitled, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Arrangement in Blues, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 24 1/2 x 27 1/2
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Fran's Chair, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 21 1/2 x 17
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Off Guard Beijing, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Shakira Shopper, Blue Version, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 36 x 32
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Sneaky Green, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 41 x 49
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Untitled, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Untitled, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 31 x 41
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Moon Shadows, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 37 x 48
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Untitled, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Any Elephants?, n.d.
Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40
Private Collection

Untitled, n.d.
Oil on canvas, 40 x 38
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

Carl Aldana
East Broadway Dusk, 2001
Oil on linen, 40 x 54

Sentinel Palms, 1999
Oil on linen, 36 x 48

Hale-Bopp Over Downtown, 2004
Oil on linen, 42 x 54

Sunset on the Seal Beach Pier, 2004
Oil on linen, 42 x 54

Sunrise Palms, 2000
Oil on linen, 26 x 32

Pine Avenue, 2003
Oil on linen, 31 x 29

Santa Ana Fwy Traffic Jam, 1991
Oil on linen, 43 x 52

Livingston Drive, 1991
Oil on linen, 52 x 60

Blue Line on First Street, 1993
Oil on linen, 52 x 60

Downtown 1985, 1985
Oil on linen, 48 x 64

All works in the tanker series:
Acrylic on Bristol board mounted on Masonite
5 1/2 x 7

Tanker, 1981
At Anchor, 1981
Empty Ship, 1987
Sailing North, 1987
Under Way, 1976
Leaving the Harbor, 1987
Summer in the Harbor, 1976
Marine Layer, 1988
Summer Ocean In the Harbor, 1981
Coming into the Harbor, 1985
Ocean Reflections, 1981
Back Lit Tanker, 1987
Entering the Harbor, 1976
Sailing South, 1988

All works by Carl Aldana, Collection of the
Aldana Family

Lori LaMont
Bird Masks, 2001
Watercolor on paper, 60 x 40
Collection of Suzanne and Dennis Poulsen

Cockfight, 2000
Watercolor on paper, 22 x 30
Collection of Jim Morris

Strongman, 2002
Watercolor on paper, 29 x 40
Collection of Lynn and Michael
Stearns

Circus Horses, 2001
Watercolor on paper, 40 x 60
Courtesy of the artist

Maiko, 2003
Watercolor on paper, 30 x 22
Private Collection of John and Karlin
LaPorta

White Dahlias, 2004
Watercolor on paper, 30 x 41
Collection of Marri Cuniff

Fish Parade, 2008
Watercolor on paper, 40 x 60
Courtesy of the artist

Love Birds, 2007
Watercolor on paper, 47 x 34
Collection of Kevin Poi and
Tom Hoehn

Birds on Parade, 2007
Watercolor on paper, 40 x 60
Courtesy of the artist

Monasha, 2001
Watercolor on paper, 40 1/2 x 26
Courtesy of the artist

Blue Room, 2005
Watercolor on paper, 40 x 26
Collection of Anita Guttler

Fish Parade, 2007
Watercolor on paper, 40 x 60
Courtesy of the artist

Mary's Portrait, 2007
Watercolor on paper, 60 x 40
Courtesy of the artist

The Magician, 2001
Watercolor on paper, 60 x 40
Collection of Chuck Graddy

Ursula Horribilis, 2003
Watercolor on paper, 60 x 40
Collection of Suzanne and
Dennis Poulsen

*Dimensions are in inches; height
precedes width

Three is made possible with
the support of Linda and Bill
McCullough, Julian Feingold,
Suzanne and Dennis Poulsen,
Don and Madeline Heimark
and Elaine Ridder.

THREE

February 29 – June 8, 2008

● Fern Bowen
● Carl Aldana
● Lori LaMont



The Long Beach Museum of Art collects and exhibits works by artists living and working in the City of Long Beach and the region. We are pleased to continue this tradition with the presentation of *Three: Fern Bowen, Carl Aldana and Lori LaMont*, from February 29 to June 8, 2008. Fern Bowen (1917 – 2007), the elder stateswoman of the group, had a lengthy career and worked in a variety of styles but always with an accomplished use of color. Carl Aldana (born 1938), a prolific artist, is inspired by the views that he finds in his daily painting of Long Beach. Both Carl and Fern share a sense of inspiration from the larger world beyond California as well. All three artists including the youngest of the group, Lori LaMont (born 1968), are inspiring through their use of color. Lori's robust attention to detail includes flights of fantasy as well as local Long Beach citizens. All three artists give us fresh visions of the world around us.

The presentation of *Three: Fern Bowen, Carl Aldana and Lori LaMont* is made possible with the support of Linda and Bill McCullough, Julian Feingold, Suzanne and Dennis Poulsen, Don and Madeline Heimark, and Elaine Ridder. The presentation of the exhibition was supported by the efforts of all of the Museum staff with particular attention to the details of exhibition management by Registrar Candice Reichardt, Preparator Brooks Manbeck and Assistant to the Interim Director, Megan Ellisor, for overseeing the details and for keeping us all on task. The exhibition would not be possible without the generous participation of the artists, their families, including Stephen and Dorothy Bowen, and the several collectors who generously loaned works to the exhibition. As always, the artists' visions delighted us and we were privileged to work closely with Fern, Carl and Lori.

Ron Nelson, Interim Director
Sue Ann Robinson, Director of Collections
Ed Fosmire, Associate Director of Development and Institutional Planning

Long Beach Museum of Art

Museum admission is free every Friday, with generous support from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

fridays
are free



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Fern Bowen (1917 – 2007)

A long-time resident of Southern California, Fern Bowen was born in Bellflower and passed away in 2007 in Long Beach. Rather than restrict herself to one style of painting, she sought out and studied with many artist-instructors between 1957 and 1981 including Fran Soldini in Long Beach, Arnold Schiffrin, Sam Clayberger in Glendale, William Bowne of CSU San Diego and with numerous instructors at the Laguna Beach School of Art. She pursued her art studies abroad in Italy, Mexico, France, Yugoslavia, Austria, Greece and England. At one time in the mid-1980s she conducted on-board art classes for Alaska cruises. Between 1972 and 1981, under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art she traveled extensively studying art and archeological sites. Her wide-ranging travels included Istanbul, Turkey; the Black Sea; ancient sites in Egypt; and Kashmir and northern India. She even obtained permission to enter China before it was open to tourism. Many of the paintings on view in this exhibition reflect her enthusiasm for travel and other cultures.

While she did take photographs on her travels, she also made quick sketches, and even jotted descriptive notes in her travel journals. Once back in her studio, she used these as the starting points for her paintings which were both descriptive—capturing the light at dusk, or the view from a hotel window—but were also opportunities for her to experiment with color combinations and extreme ranges of light hues to saturated dark colors.

Bowen exhibited her paintings throughout Southern California where she received numerous awards in recognition of her colorful visions. The Long Beach Museum of Art's permanent collection includes several paintings by Bowen, two of which are on view in the Anderson

A longtime resident of Long Beach, as well as a keen observer of the area's past and present, Aldana describes the influences in his work as contemporary popular music, Lascaux cave paintings, his Latino heritage and life in Southern California. His works have been exhibited extensively in California and his experience in Southern California includes storyboarding for a number of motion pictures.

Long Beach has been Aldana's home and muse for many years. His painting of the historic Villa Riviera on Ocean Boulevard was featured on the City of Long Beach's Centennial Poster. His paintings of Long Beach were included in *California Cityscapes* organized by the San Diego Art Museum in 1991. Often, he will paint the same subject from varying viewpoints over the course of many years capturing the history of a particular building or site. On nearly daily excursions, Aldana has sketched and painted Long Beach's neighborhoods and views capturing both the changes in the cityscape and particular moments in time—sunsets, sunrises, and even the arrival of the Hale-Bopp comet.

Lori LaMont (Born 1968)

LaMont's rich works are anything but traditional watercolor paintings. Overflowing with glorious saturated color, and often reaching five feet in size, her paintings are meticulously-crafted, highly detailed and densely packed with carefully selected colors and patterns. Her attention to detail is uncompromising and if not for their large size one might mistake them for beautiful book illustrations. Working daily, a typical painting will take her months to complete. Being self-taught, LaMont wasn't bound to the conventional notions of watercolor painting — small scale, transparent washes of color quickly executed.

Cover images:

(Left) Lori LaMont, *Cockfight*, 2000
Watercolor on paper, Collection of Jim Morris
(Top Right) Carl Aldana, *Sentinel Palms*, 1999
Oil on linen, Collection of the Aldana Family
(Bottom Right) Fern Bowen, *Untitled (detail)*
Acrylic on canvas, n.d.
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family

(Left) Lori LaMont, *Monasha (detail)*, 2001
Watercolor on paper, Courtesy of the artist
(Middle) Fern Bowen, *Off Guard Beijing (detail)*
n.d., Acrylic on canvas
Courtesy of Stephen Bowen and family
(Right) Carl Aldana
Sunset on the Seal Beach Pier (detail), 2004
Oil on linen, Collection of Aldana Family



House Lobby. Fern was always delighted to discuss art and she offered numerous personal stories associated with each painting. She recounted that *Pink Lady*, on view here, should be renamed *Get That* and *Paint It Green!* Fern Bowen reveled in and was masterfully expressive with color. Her own description of herself as an artist was that she was "all about color." Whether painting close to home—*Still Life*—or in far off China—*Shanghai Commune*, *Mustard Patch*—she reveled in the intensity of expressive color. Her joy and exuberance in life are in abundant evidence in her paintings.

Carl Aldana (Born 1938)

Born in 1938 in Guatemala City, Aldana spent his early childhood surrounded by lush tropical vegetation and volcanoes, and still regards the Guatemalan highland weavings as an influence in his painting. Aldana describes his childhood memories of "that Technicolored Central American country" and the abundance of multicolored regional and traditional costumes that have influenced his palette throughout his career.

His family's move in 1944 from a brightly colored provincial culture to the small Navy town of Vallejo, California, was a dramatic change. In contrast to the colorful surroundings of his childhood, Aldana recalls his surprise at everything in Vallejo being subdued in color by the Pacific marine layer. In the selection of paintings seen here, his palette reflects what Aldana calls "the basis of much of my work, either exaggerating color or understating it." In some paintings the drama of fiery sunsets over the Pacific are contrasted with quiet views of ships plying through a fog shrouded harbor.

Her paintings are populated with impressive figures or animals and a sense of performance or spectacle permeates a number of her works including *Fish Parade*, *Bird Masks*, *Circus Horses*, *Ursula Horribilis*, and *The Magician*. Although her works display an exuberant sense of color and fantasy, they are always firmly rooted in the reality of the world around her. Her husband Monte was the model for the musician, *Monasha*; the owner of Long Beach-based Gallery 33 is the face for *Strongman*.

Portraits of people—whether friends, family or imaginary—are always painted without the details of the eyes. According to LaMont, the lack of pupils and irises "inverts the natural tendency in a portrait to focus on the eyes and makes the painting more accessible. Without being able to confront the subject's eyes, the viewer is then free to focus on the subject's manner of dress, posture and the overall ambience." In addition, says LaMont, "eyes are limiting — eyes can bind the figure to a specific thought or emotion."

Often animals are the subjects of entire paintings and the eyes of her scaled or feathered subjects are treated differently. Their eyes are rendered in detail, providing a sense of vitality, realism and sometimes sadness.

Born and raised in San Pedro, LaMont is the youngest of the three artists in *Three*. She has been a Long Beach resident for a dozen years and her paintings have been featured in the Long Beach Museum of Art's *Art Auction XI* and *Art Auction XII*. She has been a featured artist in numerous local and national publications.