

Bio: Toni Littlejohn

Board President of Gallery Route One, Point Reyes Station, 2008 – present

Leader of Wild Carrots Art Workshops, 1992 to present, held in her Point Reyes Station Studio

Creator and director of Gallery Route One's Artists in the Schools Program, 1993 – 2007

Director of the After School Art Program, the Dance Palace, 1992 – 2014

Art Therapist, Ting Sha Institute, Point Reyes Station, 1998 – 2007

Founding Member of Gallery Route One, 1983

Inspired by the Tibetan-Buddhist meditation practice of lying directly on the ground, Toni accesses what lies beyond normal reality to sense the most elemental human experiences' underlying power. Exploring the interaction of paint, water, and gravity to form personal earthscapes, the creative practice of her work engages an essential metaphor about the geological alchemy that created the earth in a cacophony of fire, water, air, and matter. Toni becomes a conduit for the primal powers and forces of the coalescing planet itself through this visceral process: heat, electricity, fusion.

Littlejohn's work has been shown widely in the Bay Area and the Oakland and Bolinas Museums and three times in Europe, including the Soviet Union. She has the quirky honor to have had one of her paintings stolen in the USSR. The most unusual exhibition site for two of Toni's paintings: a flash drive aboard the spacecraft Osiris Rex that last October touched the asteroid Bennu. The spacecraft is now returning to planet earth to deliver the capsule holding the asteroid dust it has collected. Still, the mission and her paintings will continue to travel in outer space until the unforeseeable future.

Toni received her BA in French after spending her junior year in Paris and earned her Elementary Teaching Credential from the University of California at Berkeley. In 1974 she also earned a BFA in Sculpture from California College of Arts and Crafts. Before moving to Point Reyes Station in 1979, her career included teaching 4-6th grades in Monterey and San Francisco and directing a San Francisco after-school art program and summer camp. One of Toni's continuing goals is to help children and adults connect to their creative selves through art-making and facilitate the development of Gallery Route One and its Artists in the Schools Program.

Parallel to her myriad art activities, Toni rebuilt two homes while living in San Francisco and built from scratch two houses and a barn in Point Reyes Station. Her construction experience continues to inform her artwork, leading to the incorporation of diverse building materials and sculptural elements in her large-scale paintings and in ongoing work in other media.

