

T R Colletta Biography

Thomas R. Colletta was born in Buffalo, New York in April of 1952, and grew up in the nearby Town of Tonawanda. American/German mother, whose ancestors entered the United States in the 1800's. Italian/American father, who entered through Ellis Island at age six in 1921.

Thomas received his first set of oil paints in the eighth grade. In High School he took classes in music theory and composition, studied piano and played French Horn in the school band and orchestra. At the State University of New York College at Buffalo, though entering as a history major, Thomas graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design. These years were also filled with lessons in classical pipe organ and bagpipes.

In 1971, Thomas accepted his first organist position at First Presbyterian Church in the City of Tonawanda, NY. After graduation in 1974, as assistant to Dr. Edna Lindemann, he became Technical Director for the Charles Burchfield Center in Buffalo, NY. His duties included the design of exhibits, brochures and promotional material. In 1975 he was hired by the Longin Studio in Niagara Falls, NY, and worked as a professional photographer. His passion for art and architecture prompted several trips to Europe, where he could experience, in person, the Western history of art.

Moving to Hartford, Connecticut in 1978, Thomas devoted himself to painting full time. In 1979 he began exhibiting his work with the Different Drummer Gallery, while accepting illustration commissions from publishing firms in Boston and New York. Almost exclusively his canvases depicted historic, urban landscapes - titled aptly by one critic as "pictorial time machines." During this time, Thomas expanded his music as well: he accepted the position of Organist and Music Director for Saint Mary's R.C. Church in New Britain, CT and sang with the professional chorus, CONCORA.

In 1987 Thomas attended a painting seminar with Mr. Richard Whitney, a former pupil of R.H. Ives Gammell, an exponent of the Boston School of visual impressionism. Color became a much stronger focus for Thomas and his subject matter expanded beyond urban scenes to portraiture and figurative work as well.

After leaving Connecticut and spending a year in New York City, TR Colletta moved to San Francisco in 1992. He auditioned for the San Francisco Symphony Chorus with whom he is honored to share a Grammy for their 1995 recording of the Brahms' Requiem. In 1996 he began a series of paintings, which focused on objects that accented American culture in the 20th century. Exploring the possibilities of expressing these objects in paint continues to be his focus at the easel. Thomas, gratefully, lives and works in beautiful San Francisco, California.

T R Colletta

Resume

Solo Exhibitions

2018
Hartford Public Library - Hartford, CT

2013
Campton Gallery – New York, NY

2011
Evan Lurie Gallery – Carmel, IN

2010
Caldwell Snyder Gallery – San Francisco, CA

2008
Campton Gallery – New York, NY

2007
Campton Gallery – New York, NY

2006
Caldwell Snyder Gallery – San Francisco, CA

2005
Trajan Gallery – Carmel, CA
Caldwell Snyder Gallery – New York, NY

2004
Trajan Gallery – Recent Works and Lecture – Carmel, CA

2003
Caldwell Snyder Gallery – San Francisco, CA

2002
Caldwell Snyder Gallery – New York, NY

1995
Romantic Realist - Colleen Yoho Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1994
Angels in San Francisco - Spectrum Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1991
Peel Gallery - Danby, VT

1989
Boston Remembered - Haley & Steele, Boston, MA

1986
Hartford Arts Council Award Exhibit, Jubilee 350 - Hartford, CT

1985
Visions of Yesteryear - Fairfield University, CT

1983
Central Arizona Chapter of the AIA – Phoenix, AZ
The Meeting House - Hartford, CT

1980
Different Drummer Gallery - Hartford, CT
Widner Gallery, Trinity College - Hartford, CT

1979
Different Drummer Gallery - Hartford, CT

Group Exhibitions

2022
Crocker Art Museum - Sacramento, CA

2020
deYoung Museum - San Francisco - The deYoung Open

2016
Caldwell Snyder - San Francisco, CA

2015

Blue 7 Gallery, Santa Monica, CA - Food for Thought
2013
Skidmore Contemporary Art – Santa Monica
Campton Gallery – New York, NY
Sue Greenwood Fine Art – Laguna Beach, CA
2011
Sue Greenwood Fine Art – Laguna Beach, CA
2010
Campton Gallery – New York, NY
2005
San Francisco International Art Expo – San Francisco, CA
2004
San Francisco International Art Expo – San Francisco, CA
2003
Caldwell Snyder Gallery 20th Anniversary Show – San Francisco, CA
1998
Powell Street Gallery - San Francisco, CA
1993
Three for the Third - Peel Gallery, Danby, VT
1991
Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts Annual (CAFA)
Copley Society Portrait Show - Boston, MA
Carriage House Gallery Portrait Show - Guilford, CT
1990
CAFA Annual
1989
The Connecticut Vision - Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT
CAFA Annual
1988
Glastonbury Art Exhibit - 2nd Prize - Glastonbury, CT
CAFA Annual
1987
CAFA Annual
1986
Mystic Maritime Gallery Invitational - Mystic, CT
85th Annual New Haven Paint & Clay Exhibit - New Haven, CT
1985
Greene Art Gallery - Guilford, CT
CAFA Annual
1984
Americana Show - Greenwich Workshop Gallery - Greenwich, CT
83rd Annual New Haven Paint & Clay Exhibit - New Haven, CT
1982
National Juried Exhibition - Terrance Gallery - Palenville, NY
Green Art Gallery - Guilford, CT
Hartford Show - Artworks Gallery, Hartford, CT
1979
Connecticut Painters & Sculptors Annual - Stamford, CT

Art Fairs

2012
Art Palm Beach - Palm Beach, FL
2011
Miami International Art Fair, Miami, FL
Art Chicago, Chicago, IL
San Francisco International Art Expo, San Francisco, CA
2010

Red Dot Art Show – New York, NY
Art Hamptons International, Bridgehampton, NY
Los Angeles Art Show – Los Angeles, CA
2008
Red Dot Art Fair, Miami, FL
2006
Red Dot Art Fair, Miami, FL
2005
San Francisco International Art Expo, San Francisco, CA
2004
San Francisco International Art Expo, San Francisco, CA
2003
Art Chicago, Chicago, IL

Bibliography

2012
January - American Art Collector – #75
2011
Nov/Dec. - Veranda Magazine - Fresh Vision
September 7 - The Daily New Canaan - Town Hall installation
2010
Spring Issue - Artworks Magazine - Interview
2008
September - American Art Collector – #35
2005
February - In New York: Here & Now – TR Colletta at Caldwell Snyder
June – California Home And Design: The Beauty of Taking Work Home
2003
June – ArtNews: City Focus – San Francisco
July/Aug – Family Chronicle magazine: Ellis Island
2002
March – ArtNews: Exhibition announcement
1998
Winter – Ambassador Magazine-The Artistry of American Icons – TR Colletta
1995
December – USA Today
1994
September –Frontiers Magazine - San Francisco: Angels in San Francisco
1991
May – The Stamford Advocate
1991
December – The Hartford Courant: TR Colletta - Structural Artistry
February – The Glastonbury Citizen
1987
March – Gannett Westchester News
1985
August – The Catholic Transcript
September – New Britain Herald – South Church Commission
September – Fairfield Citizen News
September – The Advocate – Fairfield County: Visions of Yesteryear
September – New Haven Register: TR Colletta at Fairfield University
1984
April

Fairfield Citizen News: Americana Show – Greenwich Workshop

1982

November – The Hartford Courant

1980

October – The Hartford Courant

1979

November – The Hartford Courant