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Lory Lockwood's 'Images of Desire' to open at Atrium Gallery: Artscape



New Orleans artist Lory Lockwood captures the reflections she sees in cars like this Jaguar, as well as motorcycles and other reflective surfaces. Her exhibition, "Images of Desire," opens Jan. 10 at Christwood's Atrium Gallery in Covington.



By [Sarah Bonnette](#) on December 26, 2014

I'd never paid attention to the reflections found in chrome car parts, until I recently was challenged to do so by New Orleans artist Lory Lockwood. Peering at a SUV's chrome rear lift

gate handle at a stoplight, I saw trees reflected as giant shadowy figures. The gray clouds appeared to be swirling smoke.

The reflections found in cars, motorcycles, airplanes and shop windows fascinate Lockwood, who has spent years creating oil paintings of what she sees.

"Once you start looking at reflections – black is the most reflective -- you kind of see the whole world. And it's not the real world. It's a fantasy world," Lockwood said.

A collection of Lockwood's paintings, entitled "Images of Desire," will soon be on display at Christwood's Atrium Gallery in Covington. The exhibition will open with a reception Jan. 10 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The 15 to 20 pieces of varying sizes included in "Images of Desire" will showcase Lockwood's mastery of painting the reflections of mechanical objects. But the works also point to the broader social aspects of people's associations with cars, motorcycles and other images.

"I'm making opinions all the time about their passions, their desires, their drives," Lockwood said.

Lockwood enjoys creating titles for her shows and artistic statements. In her statement for "Images of Desire," Lockwood said "We dream, we covet, we desire. These aspirations, realized or not, can give us pleasure, fantasy, and a sense of identity or style. They fuel a drive for personal fulfillment and distinction. They can be fun and exhilarating and just simply make us feel good.



"Red on Red," one of Lockwood's paintings of a Harley Davidson motorcycle will be part of the 15 to 20 pieces in "Images of Desire."

"Images of automobiles, motorcycles, and mannequins can represent these desires. These images signify speed, power, adventure, danger, wealth, prestige, beauty, love and sex. They are

realities, fantasies and illusions at the same time. And they are evidence of our passion and our drives," the statement continues.

Lockwood's style has been described as a mix of reflections, photorealism and abstraction. Her vivid paintings are so detailed, so precise it's as if they are brightly colored photographs.

"If I was to paint looser and more abstractly, you wouldn't see the reflective properties," she said.

Lockwood was born in Baton Rouge but spent the majority of her childhood in New York after her father's job with an oil company was transferred there. She said living close to major art institutions, such the Guggenheim Museum and Metropolitan Museum of Art, provided wonderful exposure to various forms of art.

"I've been drawing and painting all my life," said Lockwood, who moved to New Orleans when she was 18 and attended Tulane University in the Newcomb art department. But she said the art education didn't teach her how to paint but what to think.

She pursued sculpture for some time after graduation. When her children were old enough, she started taking classes at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Art. It was there she learned about color theory and other painting techniques and discovered her talent for painting reflections. Her still lifes first captured those reflections in knives, silver cups and ornaments.

One day as she was taking photos, she said she turned around and saw a "sycamore tree reflected in the chrome edge of a car.

"It was an a-ha moment for me," she added. Out of that discovery grew her series "Reflections on the Avenue" involving New Orleans scenes as reflected in cars on the street.



"Aurora," a painting of a mansion reflected in a Dodge Aurora is part of Lockwood's series of works from "Reflections on the Avenue".

Another series, entitled "Marilyn and the Dreamgirls," contains paintings of mannequins and shop windows reflecting America's fascination with Marilyn Monroe and her representation of youth and glamour.

Lockwood's work has been included in numerous exhibitions locally and nationally, including a solo show at the Contemporary Arts Center, and she has earned dozens of awards and grants in her accomplished career as a full-time artist.



Lockwood painted "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" as part of her series of works featuring shop windows and Marilyn Monroe.

Painters get "really specific just like doctors do," Lockwood said of her focus on painting reflections and on photorealism. "I was fascinated by the detail and shiny surfaces. The detail is pretty amazing.

"Artists push their work," Lockwood continued. "I wanted to push past traditional reflections."

"Images of Desire" will continue until Feb. 27 at Christwood's Atrium Gallery, which is open to the public Mondays to Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It is located at 100 Christwood Boulevard, Covington. For more information, visit www.christwoodrc.com.

For more information on Lockwood, visit www.lorylockwood.com.