

Artist Spotlight: Marietta Patricia Leis



Artist Spotlight



Marietta Patricia Leis, Multimedia Artist

Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Website: <https://www.mariettaleis.com/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/leis_mp/

Artist Registry: <https://newmexicowomeninthearts.org/marietta-patricia-leis>

Marietta Patricia Leis is a multimedia artist living and working in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her work is widely exhibited nationally and internationally, and she has been awarded numerous grants and honors. Leis' reductive art extends to photography, painting, drawing, prints, video, poetry and sculpture. She has an MA in psychology and received her MA/MFA in Fine Art from the University of New Mexico. Leis' art is held in many public collections.

Traveling deeply informs Leis' work, and she has received awards to 15 artist residencies globally. Leis wants her work to evoke a sensory, visceral response: "I think about our planet a lot, so my art is inspired by water, sky, forests, food, air—the intangibles, the vulnerable, the beautiful."

Leis' *Eclipse* is a series of paintings of Flashe© and copper leaf on panel and linen. "The series came about from my infatuation with the idea of a black surface that would not reflect at all—an echoless environment," writes Leis.

"Black has been a thematic visitor in my work for a while. Mystery, fear, discovery, velvet, night etc...all intrigue me. I pursued this evasive black relentlessly for several weeks. After many trials I arrived at Flashe©, a black that one sinks into and doesn't return, a black hole. I then began to think of light trying to creep over the edges – like that of an eclipse when the light of the sun limns from the obscurity of darkness. The play of light and dark, what was dominant and what was subsumed, bifurcated and partial, became the intention of the work. The paintings speak to the sublime and offer glimpses into the infinite landscapes of the internal and external."

Leis' work has been exhibited internationally including at the Mark Rothko Center in Latvia, the Venice Biennale 2019, and the Harwood Museum in Taos. Most recently her work was included in *Alcoves 20/20 No. 2* at the New Mexico Museum of Art.

For news on upcoming exhibitions, visit Leis' website at <https://www.mariettaleis.com/>



Eclipse 8, Flashe, Copper Leaf on Panel, 6" x 6" x 4"

Leis' book of poetry, PAUSING is available in paperback on Amazon. Here's a description:

In the cold and rainy month of March 2011 multimedia artist Marietta Patricia Leis was invited to be Artist in Residence by the Morris Graves Foundation. The Foundation and Residency was located at the northern California estate of the late renowned artist Morris Graves. An impressive visual artist, Graves was also a master at creating personal living environments of grace, peacefulness and beauty. The serenity of the Residency setting created by Graves prompted Leis to press her life's pause button. Living and working in this remarkable Japanese influenced studio and landscape of giant redwood trees and serene pond inspired Leis to express her time there in art and verse. The art and poems in *Pausing* reflect her tranquil state of being as she ensconced herself in the Graves milieu. Without modern electronic distractions it was a memorably simple time for Marietta. You will sense that simplicity in this elegant little volume perhaps encouraging you to consider your own "pause" button.