Linda McMillen

“Rain Forest”

As a painter, I find inspiration in fragments of nature, seen in close detail and abstracted with color. With the painting “Rain Forest,” I focused on an area of dense forest trees with vines wrapping around them. I simplified the organic shapes and then painted in a flat technique letting the colors push and pull the eye of the viewer. Is that color a background? Is that shape part of a tree? These are things that the viewer might contemplate. When in nature, I look for plants and trees with undulating shapes and imagine the prospect of wild color changes. These organic shapes with unusual colors have been my main focus in painting.

From an early age, with no computers or IPhones and limited TV, I would draw and color for entertainment. In high school I took every art class I could, and went to college to major in Studio Art. My wonderful teachers at SIU helped me develop my own painting style. I graduated with a BFA from the school of Art and Design. Since then, I have continued to paint and create at my home studio in Carbondale. I have exhibited locally and nationally and have won awards in painting. Most recently, I exhibited my art in Mt. Vernon at the Cedarhurst Shrode Art Center. I have also participated in the two previous “Women’s Voices” art exhibits.