

# ALAN SOFFER

2 Blackthorn Rd  
Wallingford PA 19086  
610-565-6086 T  
[allthreads@comcast.net](mailto:allthreads@comcast.net)  
[www.alansofferart.com](http://www.alansofferart.com)

Painting the reality of the mind in wax, oil, and acrylic

**Born:** Philadelphia, PA  
Studio / Residence: Wallingford, PA.  
Abstract Expressionist Painter  
Working In: encaustics, oil, acrylic

## Museum collections:

1. Sulmainy Museum, Kurdistan
2. Museum de Montbelliard, France
3. Jacob & Belle Rosenbaum Foundation, US
4. Eaton Center, Cleveland, OH

## ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS:

Master of ABSTRACTION	Church Street Gallery	West Chester	PA 2016
SOLAR	Bazemore Gallery	Manayunk	PA 2015
RETROSPECTIVE: 40 YEARS	Villanova University	Villanova	PA 2014
SURVEY	Forms Gallery	Delray Beach	FL 2013
DREAMING	West Chester University.	West Chester	PA
TRANSFORMATIONS	Gander Gallery	Manchester	VT 2012
RIGHT SIDE/ LEFT SIDE	OCJAC	Philadelphia	PA 2011
NOW	Pippin Contemporary	Santa Fe	NM
GEOSCAPES	Rosenfeld Gallery	Philadelphia	PA 2009
RINCON & BEYOND	Central Pennsylvania College	Harrisburg	PA
ALL MY LIFE'S A CIRCLE	Rosenfeld Gallery	Philadelphia	PA 2007
CIRCLE OF LIFE	Gallery Sakiko New York	New York	NY
ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONS	Robert Roman Gallery	Scottsdale	AZ 2006
INFUSION	Rosenfeld Gallery	Philadelphia	PA 2005
FUSION/ INFUSION	Robert Roman Gallery	Scottsdale	AZ
OSMOSIS	Chester County Art Assoc	West Chester	PA
ABSTRACT IMPRESSIONS	Southern Exposure Gallery	N. Palm Beach	FL 2004
SAN MIGUEL SUITE	Atlantic City Art Center	Atlantic City	NJ 2003
PROGRESSION	Widener University Museum	Chester	PA
CHROMA	Parallels Gallery	Philadelphia	PA 2002
TOWARD THE SUBLIME	Southern Exposure Gallery	W. Palm Beach	FL 2000
DECONSTRUCTIONS OF THE LIFE CYCLE	Hoyt Institute	New Castle	PA
ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONS	Artjaz Gallery	Philadelphia	PA
MAKING IT UP	Brown Art Gallery	Baltimore	MD 1999
NEW WORK	Artist's House	Philadelphia	PA 1998
DECONSTRUCTIONS	Fulton-Burt Gallery	Sarasota	FL 1997
CONCERNING CREATION	Chester County Art Assoc	West Chester	PA 1995
CURIOUS NARRATIVES	The Borowsky Gallery	Philadelphia	PA 1994
BABYLON REVISITED	Nexus Resource Room	Philadelphia	PA 1992
EVOKING ORIGINS	Del. Ctr. Contemporary Art	Wilmington	DE
SUMMER SELECTIONS	Larsen Dulman Gallery	New Hope	PA 1989
ONE + ONE + ONE	Community Art Center	Wallingford	PA 1988
ELEMENTAL THREADS	Natl. Museum Amer. Jewish History	Philadelphia	PA 1985

Books: I NEVER OWNED A LAWNMOWER—99 pages, 2014, autobiography, Lulu press  
 Encaustic Art 21<sup>st</sup> Century --4 pages, 2016, color plates and bio  
 Walk Into Abstracts, Sue St John—2 pages, 2012, color plates and work process  
Upon Thy Doorposts, Belle Rosenbaum--one page, 1993 color plates  
New American Paintings, Steve Zevitas--four pages, 1999 color plates, and bio.

Periodicals:

Swarthmorean: March 2013, one page, Reesa Mukamil  
Art Matters: Sept. 2004, one page---Pulling Canvas, Wanda Walls  
Art Matters: March 2003, two pages—Parallel Lives, Perpendicular Styles, Buzz Miller  
Style Magazine: March/ April 2001, two pages--The Dark Continent, Dr. Lori Verderame  
Doylestown Patriot: Jan 2001, two pages Artmobile Tour, John Gatti  
County Calendar: Sept. 1995, one page The Chester County Art Association, staff  
Pennsylvania Dental Journal: May/June 1994, two pages—Curious Narratives, Dr. R.Galeone  
Art Matters: Dec 1993, one page—Doctors as Artists, Diana Myers-Bennet Roberts  
Art Matters: April 1992, one page---Evoking Origins, Carolyn Roland  
ADA News: March 1989 one page-- Pennsylvanian Seeks Heroes of Dentistry, Stacy Fisch  
Art Matters: Feb 1988, one page—More Reviews, Joy Gasta  
Jewish Exponent: May 1985, one page-- Elemental Threads, staff  
Inside Magazine: Winter 1985, one page—The Beauty of Holiness, Sissy Carpey  
Textile Arts Society, Vol II, no. 23, one page—National Museum of American Jewish History

Awards:

- |                              |                       |      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| 1. CAC                       | clay sculpture        | 1987 |
| 2. Jane Law Gallery          | watercolor            | 1995 |
| 3. Photography Open          | color print           | 1997 |
| 4. Printmaking '98           | collaged monotype     | 1998 |
| 5. Images '98                | collaged painting     | 1998 |
| 6. Small Works/ Big Ideas    | painting              | 2001 |
| 7. Members show/ MLAC        | painting              | 2002 |
| 8. In Person/ CAC            | encaustic painting    | 2004 |
| 9. Best of Scottsdale        | contemporary painting | 2005 |
| 10. Extravaganza in Red,     | encaustic painting    | 2010 |
| 11. Lyceum, NJ               | encaustic painting    | 2012 |
| 12. Goggleworks, Reading, Pa | encaustic             | 2013 |
| 13. Wayne Art Center         | encaustic             | 2014 |

**JURIED & INVITATIONAL SHOWS**

JURIED SHOW	West Windsor Art Center	Princeton	NJ	<b>2017</b>
LA ART FAIR	Sergott Contemporary	Rancho Santa Fe	CA	
GALLERY ARTISTS	Bazemore Gallery	Manayunk	PA	<b>2016</b>
SAVING GAIA	Miller White gallery	S. Dennis MA		
ARTISTS ESQUITY	West Chester U.	West Chester	PA	
ART OF THE STATE	State Museum	Harrisburg	PA	<b>2015</b>
ANNUAL JURIED SHOW	CAC	Wallingford	PA	
JURIED SHOW	Wayne Art Center	Wayne	PA	<b>2014</b>
GROUP SHOW	Pippin Contemporary	Santa Fe	NM	<b>2013</b>
JURIED	Widener University	Chester	PA	
JURIED	Harrah's Casino	Chester	PA	
ARTISTS EQUITY	GOGGLEWORKS	Reading	PA	
GROUP SHOW	Sanford Smith gallery	Great Barrington	MA	
CENTENNIAL	Delaware Art Museum	Wilmington	DE	<b>2012</b>
CREATIVE ALLIANCE	HillTop School	Rosemont	PA	
JURIED SHOW	Lyceum	Burlington	NJ	
WHAT'S THIS JOURNEY ABOUT	Pippin Contemporary	Santa Fe	NM	
OPEN, JURIED SHOW	BWAC	Brooklyn	NY	
RED	Penn State U.	Malvern	PA	
INVITATIONAL	CCAA	West Chester	PA	

GROUP	Forms Gallery	Delray Beach	FL	
FALL GROUP SHOW	Pippin Contemporary	Santa Fe	NM	
BEYOND ABSTRACTION	J & J	New Brunswick	NJ	
GROUP	Owl 57	Cedarhurst	NY	
BEYOND ABSTRACTION	CFEVA	Philadelphia	PA	<b>2011</b>
GRAND OPENING	Pippin Contemporary	Santa Fe	NM	
SMALL WORKS SHOW	Gander Gallery	Manchester	VT	
ART MOVEMENT: ABSTRACT	CCAA	West Chester	PA	
DEATH	Salon des Amis	Malvern	PA	
COUPLES	LBI Foundation	Loveladies	NJ	
BEYOND LIMITS	OCJAC	Philadelphia	PA	
EROTICA	Salon des Amis	Malvern	PA	
ARISTS EQUITY	Wayne Art Center	Wayne	PA	
COLOR, GEOMETRY, ABSTRACTION	Norristown Arts Building	Norristown	PA	
ENCAUSTICS	Art Trust	West Chester	PA	<b>2010</b>
GROUP SHOW	Rosenfeld Gallery	Philadelphia	PA	
EXTRAVAGANZA IN RED	Chester County Art Assoc	West Chester	PA	
EXHIBITION	The Creative Center	New York	NY	
ART IN A BOX	Cheryl Pelavin Gallery	New York	NY	
SMALL ART	Del Ctr for Contemp. Art	Wilmington	DE	
DEAR FLEISHER	Fleisher Art Memorial	Philadelphia	PA	
NEW WORK	Diving Cat	Phoenixville	PA	<b>2009</b>
WINTER SALON	Gallery Sakiko-NY	New York	NY	<b>2008</b>
GROUP SHOW	American Contemp. Gallery	Annapolis	MD	
SECUNDA & FRIENDS	Museum deMontbeliard	Montbeliard	FRANCE	
SMALL WORKS	Rosenfeld Gallery	Philadelphia	PA	
VOTE ART	DCCA	Wilmington	DE	
DEAR FLEISHER	FAM	Philadelphia	PA	
60 by 60	Duke Gallery	Wallingford	PA	
SMALL WORKS	Rosenfeld Gallery	Philadelphia	PA	<b>2007</b>
WAXING PHILOSOPHIC-5 person	Wired Gallery	Bethlehem	PA	
TOUCHING THE VOID-5 person	Atlantic City Art Center	Atlantic City	NJ	
GROUP	Zenith Gallery	Washington	DC	
GROUP	Handsel Gallery	Santa Fe	NM	
SOMETHING SPECIAL	Gallery Bellaria	Bryn Mawr	PA	
WORKS ON PAPER	Main Line Art Center	Bryn Mawr	PA	
ART x 12+	Widener University	Chester	PA	
IN PERSON	CAC Gallery	Wallingford	PA	<b>2006</b>
ABSTRACTION-4 PERSON	Creation Art Gallery	Juno Beach	FL	
OIL + WAX	Robert Roman Gallery	Scottsdale	AZ	
HOT WAX and COOL ARTISTS	Haydon Art Center	Lincoln	NE	
GROUP	Owl 57	Woodmere	NY	
CANVASSING THE COAST	BMS Gallery	Princeton	NJ	<b>2005</b>
OIL + WAX	Siano Gallery	Philadelphia	PA	
SMALL WORKS	Rosenfeld Gallery	Philadelphia	PA	
OIL + WAX	River Tree Arts	Kennebunk	MA	
INAUGARAL	Creation Art Gallery	Juno Beach	FL	
IN PERSON	CAC Gallery	Wallingford	PA	
OIL + WAX	N. Cal. Arts League	Novato	CA	
THE GESTURE-Movement & Color	Robert Roman Gallery	Scottsdale	AZ	<b>2004</b>
SUMMER SHOW	Garrubbo Bazan Gallery	West Chester	PA	
GALLERY ARTISTS	Artjaz Gallery	Philadelphia	PA	
TOXIC LANDSCAPES	LBI Foundation	Loveladies	NJ	
ABSTRACT EXHIBITION	CCAA	West Chester	PA	
IN PERSON*	CAC	Wallingford	PA	
GROUP SHOW	Posh Gallery	Media,	PA	<b>2003</b>
SMALL WORKS	CAC	Wallingford	PA	
SNAPSHOT	Aldrich Museum	Ridgefield	CONN	<b>2002</b>
REFLECT & RESPOND	Krasdale	NYC	NY	
PAISAGES TOXICOS	Jose Marti Library	Havana	CUBA	
JULY-AUG SHOW	Parellels Gallery	Phila	PA	
JURIED SHOW	PAFA	Phila	PA	

WORKS ON PAPER	Sketch Club	Phila	PA	
62 <sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL EXHIBITION	Woodmere Museum.	Chestnut Hill	PA	
REFLECT & RESPOND	Burlington College	Mount Holly	NJ	
FACULTY SHOW	CAC	Wallingford	PA	
ARTIE PARTIE	DCCA	Wilmington	DE	2001
ART OF THE STATE	State Museum	Harrisburgh	PA	
TOXIC LANDSCAPES	Chatam College	Pittsburgh	PA	
ACTS OF KINDNESS	Drexel University	Phila	PA	
SNAPSHOT	Arcadia College	Jenkintown	PA	
URBAN BLIGHT	Open Space Gallery	Allentown	PA	2000
CENTERFOLD	Powell Gallery	Lawton	OKLA	
ELEPHANT ART	DaVinci Art Alliance	Phila	PA	
SNAPSHOT	Institute Of Contemporary Art	Baltimore	MD	
GRITTY CITY	Borowsky Gallery	Phila	PA	1999
NEW AMERICAN PAINTINGS	Open Studios Press	Wellesley	MA	
IMAGE '98 *	Hub Galleries	State College	PA	1998
SUMMER EXHIBITION	Penna Acad. of Fine Arts	Phila	PA	1997
FIN de SIECLE	Del. Ctr Contemporary Art	Wilmington	DE	
“	Delaware StateUniv	Dover	DE	
DOWNTOWN INSTALLATIONS	Berkshire CAC	North Adams	MA	
TINY WORKS	Project Gallery	Wichata	KS	
LARGE DIMENSION	Art Resources	St. Paul	MN	
PRINTWORK '96	Barrett House	Poughkeepsie	NY	1996
SUPER VISIONS	CCAA	West Chester	PA	1995
MULTI-MEDIA EXHIBITION	York College	York	PA	
ACROSS BORDERS/SIN FRONTERAS	Art Museum Of Americas	Washington	DC	1994
RIENKS MEMORIAL: COMPETITION	Gallery West	Alexandria	VA	
NATIONAL PRINT EXHIBITION	Harper College	Palatine	IL	
SELF PORTRAITS	Del. Ctr. Cont. Arts	Wilmington	DE	
ARGENTINA INVITATIONAL	Museo Estudios Historicos	Odontalgia	BUENOS AIRES	
A PRIVATE SCREENING	Ergane Gallery	New York	NY	
OPEN JURIED SHOW	Abington Art Center	Jenkintown	PA	1992
ART AT THE ARMORY	33 <sup>RD</sup> St Armory	Phila	PA	
AMERICAN, EUROPEAN/FOLK ART	City Hall	Phila	PA	1989
ARTWEST	Art Center	Jackson Hole	WY	1988
NATIONAL PAPER/CLAY	Memphis State Univ..	Memphis	TN	
GROUP CLAY SHOW	Sande Webster Gallery	Phila	PA	
FOLK FESTIVAL	U. Of Penna..	Phila	PA	1981
JEWISH RITUAL ART	Balch Institute	Phila	PA	1979

### **TEACHING & WORKSHOPS :**

#### ENCAUSTIC PAINTING:

Main Line Art Center, PA  
 CCAA West Chester, PA  
 CAC Wallingford, PA  
 LBI Foundation, NJ  
 Tempe Center, AZ  
 Soffer Studio, PA  
 West Windsor, NJ

#### ABSTRACT PAINTING:

Haverford College, Krinski program, PA  
 Painting for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Jamaica  
 TAP Chester, PA  
 The Creative Center, NYC  
 Fort Myers: Lee County Alliance for the Arts  
 Soffer studio  
 Boca Raton Art Museum, FL  
 Goggleworks, PA

## CURATORIAL:

CAC, Wallingford, PA  
Siano Gallery, Philadelphia, PA  
River Tree Arts, Kennebunk, ME  
Northern Cal. Arts, Novato, CA  
Robert Roman Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ  
Waxing Philosophic: Wired Gallery, Bethlehem, PA  
  
Art on the Avenue, Chester, PA

## BIOGRAPHY:

Alan Soffer has been making art since 1973 in a variety of modalities. Originally, he was known for ceramic sculpture, particularly, religious ritual objects and later for work about ancient healing, deconstruction, and fragmented imagery. His work as teacher and curator continues to augment his primary passion for abstract expressionist painting which began in 1985.

His studies in sculpture and painting include Arrowmont School in Tenn., 1981 with Lew Snyder; State U of New York, Oswego with Richard Zakin; Parsons School of Design with Andrea Gill, 1983; Bennington College with Sandy Slone; Corcoran Museum School of Art with Paul Soldner, Peters Valley  
Art Center 1986 with Bennett Bean; Penna. Academy of Fine Arts, 1988, 1996, 1999; Ringling School of Design, MLAC with Moe Brooker

The work is clearly influenced by abstract expressionists of the past century, such as, Rauschenberg, Rivers, Frankenthaler, Motherwell, Chagall, Dubuffet, Keifer, Mondrian, and Polke. The seminal work that defined Soffer in the early nineties was about ancient healing. Current emphasis on encaustics is a perfect marriage of his two loves- sculpture and painting.

The other major direction of his work in the nineties was 'the life cycle', which was inspired through the teachings of Joseph Campbell. This work includes extensive treatment of creation theories, life and deconstruction, and finally rebirth. These subjects required research into science, primitive cultures and the ancient world, before, digesting and expressing the most salient features visually. Soffer continues to find Campbell his most important mentor.

Exhibitions have traveled throughout the US, Argentina, Cuba, France, & Kurdistan. Significant exhibitions have been at Widener University, Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, National Museum of American Jewish History, Hoyt Institute, Atlantic City Art Center, Gallery Sakiko, NYC, Delaware Art Museum, West Chester State U., Villanova U., York College, Penn State College, Penna. Academy of Fine Arts, the Print Center, Parallels Gallery, State Museum of Penna., Rosenfeld Gallery, and Robert Roman Gallery.

His use of encaustics began in 1998 and continues to be an integral feature of his *oeuvre*. Reduction and distillation both buries and exposes bits of his images and sentiments infused in the multilayered paintings. Use of this ancient, hot pigmented wax technique supports his vocabulary for expressing space through its inherent translucency. Space, from the microscopic to the galactic, is a constant theme.

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Soffer agrees with Carter Ratcliff's point of view, when he said, "It's a mistake to take the artist's statements at face value. These statements are products of the imagination and so need to be interpreted along with the art." With that idea in mind, the following remarks by four art critics are included.

VICTORIA DONOHUE / [PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER](#) [2003, Widener University]

"Soffer is serious artist with a truly poetic gift for making his paintings coalesce into visions of quite remarkable beauty. He is a colorist and very versatile in this; he uses color exuberantly and paints seemingly with abandon, yet his results are nonetheless strongly rhythmic. Such paintings project an engaging physicality, even though they rely on swift effects to declare their presence as the shapes move back and forth between realistic portrayals of the human figure and abstraction- with the accent on abstraction."

R.B. STRAUSS / [METRO PAPER](#) [2002 Parallels Gallery]

"Layers of color lend his art a sense of depth while the choreography of his brushwork yields a dynamic flow from one painting to the next. This sense of traveling into uncharted territory is what makes his work so unique."

ANNE FABBRI / [STYLE MAGAZINE](#) [LBI Foundation]

"Highlights of the show created by the Puffin Foundation (Toxic Landscapes) include three haunting Soffer paintings that depict environments within the lifecycle. He finishes the surface with pencil, paint photographs in these mixed media drawings and collages."

JANET PURCELL / [THE TIMES](#) [Canvassing the Coast]

"Soffer reaches down into his memories, in the manner of abstract expressionism. Symbolistic strokes fly around on the surface and drama is in every stroke."