

Follow us on



[Subscribe](#) | [Today's paper](#) | [Customer care](#)

[Sign In](#) | [Register](#)

statesman.com

Real Austin. Real News.

Site  Web

Web Search by YAHOO!

---

Posted: 10:31 a.m. Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Life

## Local artist headed to the Big Apple

### Art featured in an abstract exhibition

By Cristina Peña

Austin Community Newspapers Staff

Tamera Lee has never been to New York City, but she's about to hit the city's art scene in a big way.

Lee, a Cedar Park artist, will be featured in the "Pulse of Abstraction" exhibit at the Agora Gallery in New York City, which will begin June 4 and run through the month.

The road to New York wasn't an easy one, but a serendipitous turn made all the difference. Agora Gallery has been on Lee's radar for about five years and up until 2012 she never had the courage to submit work to their international art competition.

She caught the attention of the gallery, who contacted her for more pieces and information, despite the fact her work was not selected in the competition. Lee said she had no idea where to start when the gallery asked for her CV, or curriculum vitae, which is a summary of an artist's professional accomplishments and history. Luckily for her, the gallery helped compile all of her materials and offered her a representation contract in August 2012. Lee's work will also be featured in the May edition of Agora Gallery's magazine, ARTisSPECTRUM.

Lee expressed interest in artist residencies, which are programs where hotels commission work from artists while letting them stay for a period of time. While she researches opportunities for her trip, she said she's just excited for the experience to show her work.

"It's kind of a big deal, it's New York," Lee said. "New York was built by artists for artists."

Following her high school graduation, Lee took 20 years away from art and joined the Air Force where she did logistical work before moving to Denison in 1999. Her reintroduction to the art world was inspired by Steve Black, the art director at Grayson Community College, who taught her how to hang a show and apply technique to her pieces.

Lee said her process always begins with musical meditation where she groups together songs from various genres with similar vibrations and paints from that group.

"All of my work is musically inspired," she said. "From building the frame, all the way to stretching the canvas and painting, is inspired by music."

Agora Gallery Director Angela Di Bello said the Lee is appealing to the gallery because of her consistent and genuine work. She said she is looking forward to the vibrant colors in Lee's pieces and hopes it will bring a certain energy to the gallery.

“Tamera is listening to music as she paints and she becomes an essence of the music,” she said. “The fact that she is able to translate in a very gestural rhythmic way what she is listening to into form is what makes her unique.”

Along with being an artist, Lee also wears two other hats — single mother and assistant manager of an apartment community.

Stan Cox, Lee’s manager at work, has two of her pieces on his walls and believes a “haunting” charcoal drawing of the twin towers’ silhouette is her masterpiece.

Cox said one of Lee’s best qualities is her ability to put everyone at ease.

“Tamera has such life to her, people are drawn to her,” Cox said. “She has this amazing heart and you can always tell she wants to help people no matter what the situation is.”

Lee said her two children, Miranda, 16, and Anthony, 18, have been integral parts of her art because of the sacrifices the family has had to make for her work. Her son and daughter may travel to the gallery with her next month, depending on how much everything costs.

“If you have something that big in your household, you’re committing money to it that could be going to other stuff,” Lee said of her large-scale pieces. “To me [Miranda and Anthony] are a big part of that.”

The biggest appeal of art is the opportunity to communicate through another medium, Lee said. She wants to send a positive message that people don’t have to be negative to each other.

“I want to show people that there’s another way to live, there’s another way to love, there’s another way to think,” Lee said. “We don’t have to be typical humans.”

Lee pours her heart into everything she does, whether it be in the office, at home or in her studio, Cox said.


“She’s really one of a kind,” Cox said. “I’m so glad to see she’s getting recognition for it.”

## More News

### More on statesman.com

- Man drowns trying to unload boat at Lake Waco
- NYers furious over photos taken through windows
- Police: Electrician stole wire while on job at Liberty Hill...
- Hundreds remember dead Texas cheerleader
- This week’s Austin360 arts list, May 16-22
- Missing 6-year-old found dead

### From Around the Web

- A gallery that’s a work of art in itself (Financial Times)
- PETA Kills 89.4 Percent of Adoptable Dogs and Cats in its Care During 2012 (Center for Consumer Freedom)
- 5 WAYS TO SEE BIG DREAM HAPPEN (Joseph M. Foster)
- This artist set her own definition of Pop Art.  (galleryIntell)
- Hanging Gardens Of Babylon Discovered 300 Miles Away In Nineveh (redOrbit)
- Broadway’s Sexiest to Come Together for Broadway Bares 23: United Strips of America (Theater Mania)

[?]

## Comments

If you would like to post a comment please [Sign in](#) or [Register](#)

---