

Lynne Leahy
Art News



Karma— What Goes Around Comes Around—

Finding good karma in that old well-used phrase “what goes around comes around” goes a long way to explain a series of

paintings by Sausalito artist Lynne Leahy. Over the last year she has been displaying her artwork at Starbucks on Princess Street in Sausalito and also had an exhibition at the San Francisco Literary Society. Her paintings are in rich colors capturing ‘the flavor’ of Sausalito and other eye-catching settings in Marin. They are an ideal match for this friendly, upbeat cafe and in this particular instance were inspiring to Dr. Kim, a professor from Hallym University in Chuncheon, Korea.

Recently on his visit to this cafe her paintings caught his eye and, as he said to Lynne, “He loved the happiness and colors, He bought two paintings, one for his daughter, Diane, who is attending school in Santa Clara and is in 10th grade and one for his son, Luke, a freshman at UC Berkeley.” Lynne then offered to deliver the paintings to his children as she felt it was such a loving thing for a father to do, she told me as we sipped our sugar free vanilla caffè lattes.

She explained to him that all of the profits from her paintings sold out of that Starbucks go to Women’s Initiative for Self Employment, a San Francisco non-profit that helps low-income women start their own businesses. When Professor Kim heard that he immediately decided to purchase one more painting for himself and his wife.

“For me this was great news, as it means that the message about the Women’s Initiative will not only be carried to Berkeley but also to Korea and the concept of low-income women starting their own businesses is a timely message given the nature of the current global economy where high unemployment levels still prevail.” Starbucks’ Sausalito store manager, Brayth Burdios, agrees it is a great combination, local art that brightens his store and support to Women’s Initiative that helps women start their own business.

I asked Lynne what artistic influences inspired her. “I like the Society of Six, whose work I saw at the Oakland Museum, and particularly the paintings of Seldon Gile and his emphasis on primary colors. Last year when in London I visited the Van Gogh exhibition at the Royal Academy. My two favorite Van Gogh pieces are *Crows in the Wheatfields* and *Starry, Starry Night*.”

—Peter Robinson

Visit Lynne’s Sausalito studio

by appointment

(lynne.leahy@gmail.com)

10 Liberty Ship Way Building

Bay 2, Studio 258

www.lynnespaintings.com

Her paintings are on display at
Starbucks, Princess Street, Sausalito



The Kim Family



Starbucks, Princess Street, Sausalito



Lynne with Luke Kim



Lynne in her studio

What is the Women’s Initiative?

Since 1988, Women’s Initiative for Self Employment has been assisting high-potential low-income women who dream of business ownership. Through an intensive 20 session program—in English or Spanish—women are enabled to start, or expand their business.

Women’s Initiative is a not-for-profit agency. Our mission is to build the entrepreneurial capacity of women to overcome economic and social barriers and achieve self-sufficiency. Women’s Initiative has proven that women create jobs for themselves and others, access the mainstream economy, and increase their economic self-sufficiency when they are given business planning and financing support.

www.womensinitiative.org