

## **Untold Stories**

In the exhibit Untold Stories, artists Anita Loomis and Alexandra Rozenman offer narrative paintings that speak to shared human experiences. Through a variety of settings and situations, and with a touch of wry humor, the works present views of real or imagined everyday life that reflects a number of situations many are touched by. Some of Alexandra Rozenman's paintings offer perspectives on the impact of immigration or moving to a new place, the search for a sense of belonging and the way we deal with loss. Paintings by Anita Loomis examine our own sense of identity, human optimism, our living situations and behaviors and ways we react to moments of eye-opening revelation.

### Artist Statement

#### **Anita Loomis**

Like most human beings, I have a sense of humor. While I don't expect all of us to find the same things funny, there are many quirks and imperfections that people share, and it can be healthy to take ourselves a little less seriously now and again. Taking a more objective look at ourselves can also help us to understand how others perceive us. In some of my more absurd narrative paintings, I try to shed a little light on some of the odd things that we humans deal with in an honest, hopefully endearing way. After all, life can be wonderful, funny, horrible, terrifying and gross all at the same time.

I work in a wide range of styles because I have a wide range of interests. I was a glass artist for many years before concentrating on painting later in life. Not all of my paintings are narrative. Some are just enthusiastic, abstract expressions of an emotion or a feeling I have about a place. For example, the subject of Air, Land & Sea is simply a longing for Spring to appear while enduring another long cold New England winter. The purpose of a painting is primarily to evoke a feeling from its audience. At least in my work, that is the goal, more so that asking the viewer to ponder deep thoughts. Overall, I hope my paintings impart a sense of optimism and good feeling. Working in architectural stained glass taught me the value and role of artwork in the environment, and the power art has to influence those who are in its presence. Whether I work in glass, watercolor, oils or some other medium, the artwork evolves honestly and naturally by instinct. What matters in the end is how you, dear viewer, feel in its presence.