

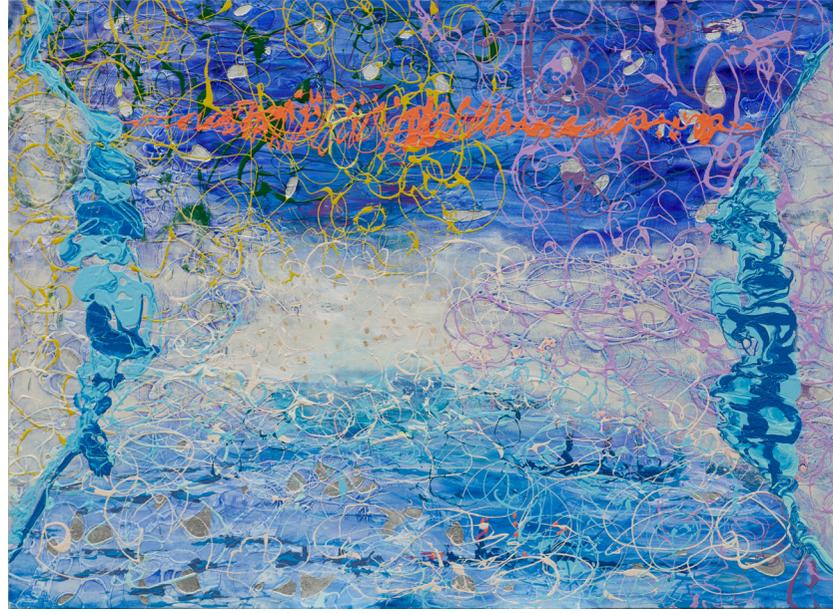


# **INFLUENCE &**

# **HEROES:**

**Women Artists Who  
Influence and Inspire**

**Serena Bocchino**



**INFLUENCE: SERENA BOCCHINO**  
MAY 25 - AUGUST 15, 2021

The Nicolaysen Art Museum  
400 Collins Drive  
Casper, WY 82601  
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thenic.org



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Sponsored by: Peter & Marlene Ashbaugh, James Bacchi, Greg Smith, Annette Schutz, and Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center of Casper



# **INFLUENCE SERENA BOCCHINO**

**May 25 - August 15, 2021**  
**The Nicolaysen Art Museum**



## DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

### ANDY COUCH

#### Executive Director, The Nicolaysen Art Museum

Several months ago, upon my arrival in Casper, and appointment as Executive Director at the Nicolaysen Art Museum, I reviewed the exhibition schedule for 2021 with our Curator of Art, Amanda Yonker. I noticed a solo exhibition planned to bring the work of Serena Bocchino to the Nic. Personally, I was thrilled her exhibition was scheduled for the summer, especially after surviving my first winter in Casper.

While visiting with our staff at the Nic about Serena's work, my thoughts drifted back to my undergraduate studies at the University of Oklahoma. I had taken an outstanding art history course called Abstract Expressionism taught by Dr. William Jackson Rushing III; his course was an inspiring moment in my academic career and was monumental to my further pursuits in the museum field. So, when I started telling my colleagues about this exhibition and all the marvelous female artists Serena was paying tribute to, they were all as thrilled as I was. But I didn't realize how fortunate the museum was until we began working with Serena.

Serena Bocchino is much more than a talented artist; she's a wonderful person. She is the type of person that will speak to a group of high school art students touring the museum without being asked. She is the type of person who will get to know your community in the short amount of time she's visiting. Serena is a person who is understanding enough to be accommodating and flexible despite all the difficulties the pandemic has brought. Serena Bocchino is the prime example of the artist every museum would love to work with.

I hope you have had the chance to see this phenomenal exhibition, INFLUENCE, and the premiere of HEROES: Women Artists Who Influence and Inspire. More importantly, I hope you had the privilege of meeting Serena while she was our guest here in Casper, Wyoming. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff at the Nicolaysen Art Museum, I would like to thank all of our sponsors, Peter and Marlene Ashbaugh, James Bacchi, Greg Smith, Annette Schultz, and the Ramokota Hotel and Conference Center of Casper, for making this unique opportunity possible and allowing us the honor of celebrating the work of Serena Bocchino.

In 1982, Bocchino received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she studied with the renowned, Polish colorist, Wojciech Fangor. As an undergraduate student, she studied abroad at Wroxton College in Oxfordshire, England. That same year, Bocchino cultivated her practice while touring Russia's famous art collections in cities including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Suzdal and Vladimir. Bocchino received her Master of Arts degree from New York University in 1985. Bocchino's work is represented in the collections of domestic and international museums, including: the Art in Embassies Program (Washington, D.C.), the Brodsky Center (New Jersey), the Bronx Museum of the Arts (New York), the Central Academy of Fine Arts Museum (Beijing, China), Czong Institute for Contemporary Art (South Korea), Islip Art Museum (New York), the Lotus Art Museum (Beijing, China), Montclair Art Museum (New Jersey), Museo Italo Americano (California), National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.), the National Museum (Muzeum Narodowe w Gdańsku) (Poland), the Newark Art Museum (New Jersey), Nicolaysen Art Museum (Wyoming), Springfield Museum of Art (Ohio), St. Louis Art Museum (Missouri), Trenton State Museum (New Jersey), and the Zimmerli Art Museum (New Jersey), as well as many distinguished private and corporate collections.



## ARTISTS BIOGRAPHY

**Serena Bocchino** is an American artist who began exhibiting her work in 1986 in the East Village, New York. In 1987, Bocchino was awarded a studio residency at MoMA PS1, during which the Deputy Prime Minister of Italy, Gianni De Michelis, invited Bocchino to have her first international solo exhibition in Rome, Italy. For the next several years, Bocchino received recognition from many art institutions that awarded her fellowships in both painting and drawing, including the Pollock Krasner Foundation, Artists Space, the Basil Alkazzi Foundation, Art Matters and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Her subsequent domestic and international exhibitions were well received with reviews in the New York Times, Village Voice, ARTnews, Art in America and The New Yorker. Five films have been created about Bocchino's work and process so far. Bocchino's first monograph, *Serena Bocchino the Artist*, was released in 2015. Bocchino's work focuses on the interpretation of music and movement in two- and three-dimensional forms. Bocchino has developed a unique pour method where she "draws" with paint poured from crushed cans and drizzled from sticks and paintbrushes. She combines gestural charcoal and graphite marks with stained paint areas to investigate the intersection of abstraction and expressionism. Additionally, Bocchino's three-dimensional work includes sculpture utilizing wire, enamel paint, acrylic and often wood to transcribe the paintings into multi-dimensional forms, which are often described as "drawings in space."



## CURATORIAL ESSAY

**Amanda Yonker**  
Curator of Art, The Nicolaysen Art Museum

It has been my great honor and privilege to curate Serena Bocchino's exhibit *INFLUENCE*, as well as host the premiere of *HEROES: Women who Influence and Inspire*. Walking into the space, the viewer is immediately met with a visual feast that echoes a physical manifestation of music. Through the effortless progression of line, whether poured paint or graphite, we are implored to connect movement to music. The survey of work surpassing ten years reveals various series and explorations as Bocchino's work shifts throughout the gallery. In its entirety, the work evokes a deep emotional response; with her use of bold colors and intricate linework, it is reminiscent of a harmonious dance on canvas, set to melodies we can only imagine.

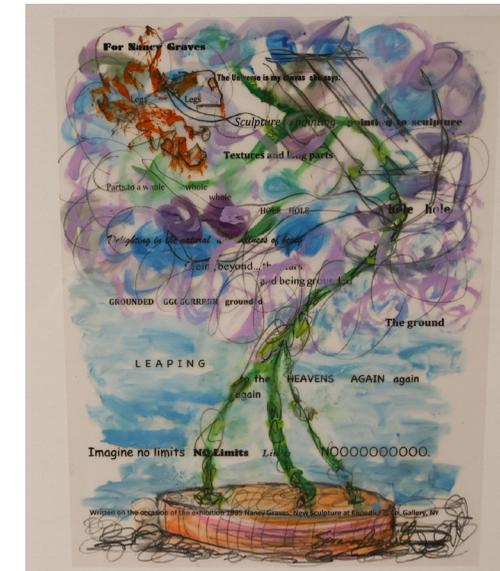




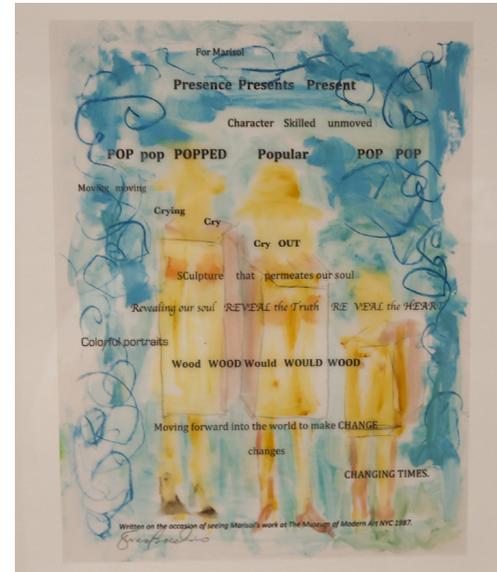
Each wall of the space presents the viewer with an emotional impression. A calm, ethereal mood is induced when wandering through the Veils series as the paint slips from the canvas and is echoed on the silks suspended from the ceiling. The immediacy and control exerted in IPop feel fun and playful, with accents of AstroTurf and whimsical creatures perched nearby. The tondo installation and Mirrors series reveal the viewer's own reflection as part of the artwork, making them pause and ponder their own identity within the work. The Fever series is an intense visceral display of splashed paint and sharp lines, like a dramatic theatrical performance transpiring before our very eyes.

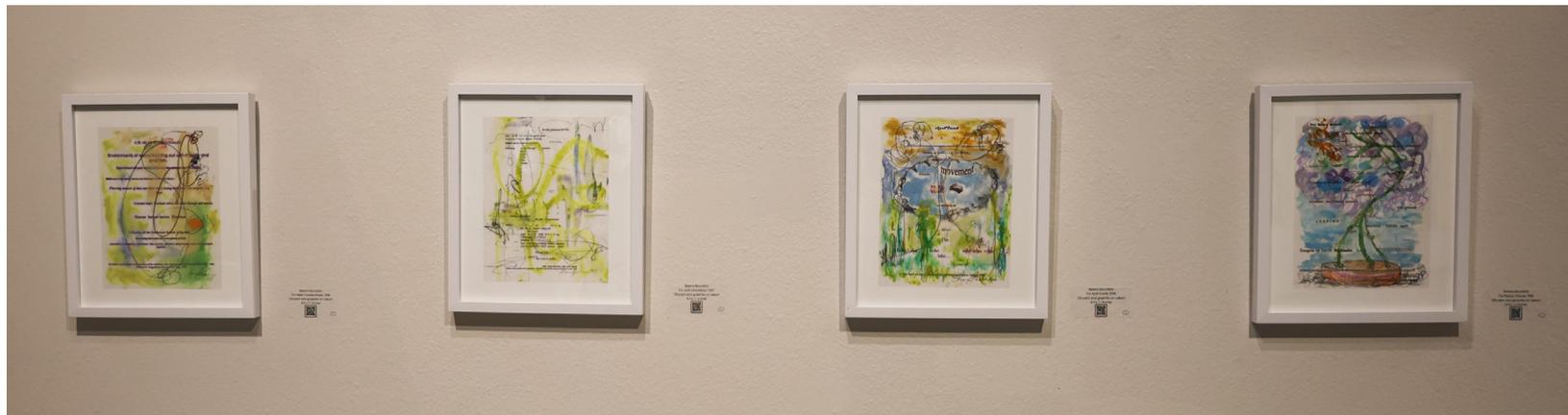
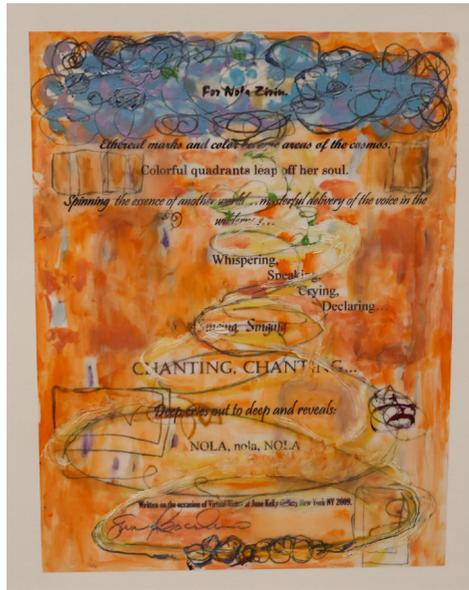
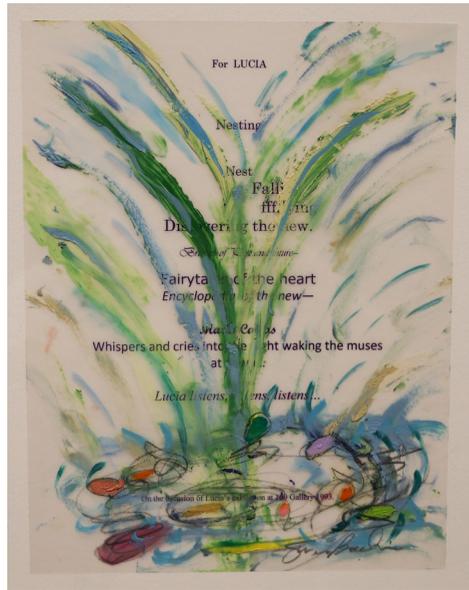
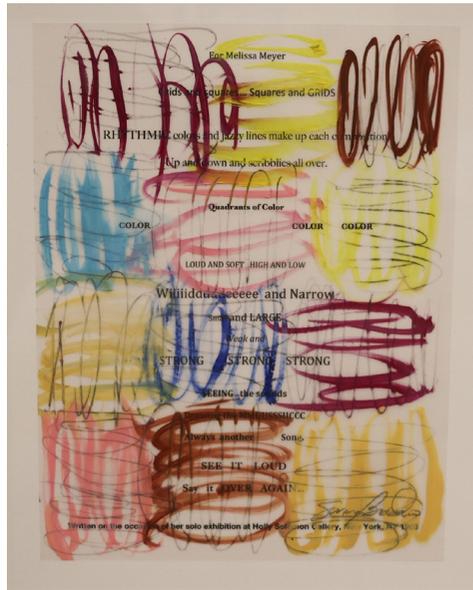
At the center of Influence is the HEROES exhibition in a circular layout, which tells the history of Bocchino's journey through the women that shaped her as an artist. Each poem, a personal reminder of the importance they played in her development.

It is through these pertinent female powerhouses that we comprehend the totality of the exhibit. A nucleus of influential women expanding into the artist's own inner reflection and growth through 7 different series. This contemplation creates an entity that pulses with power and recognizes women as influencers in the contemporary art world.











# HEREOS: Women Artists Who Influence and Inspire SERENA BOCCHINO

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The Nicolaysen Art Museum

SERENA BOCCHINO

# HEROES

WOMEN ARTISTS WHO INFLUENCE AND INSPIRE

**THE HEROES PROJECT**

These "poem paintings," as I have deemed them, synthesize free verse poetry with my studio practice to honor 37 women artists who have inspired me throughout my career as an abstract artist. The free verse poem is a lyrical translation of a specific work or series by each hero; this aspect is displayed with cut and drawn text along with oil paint and graphite on vellum paper. The lyrical element of free verse poetry, integrated with the visual layers of metaphor combine to create each poem painting. I have selected these heroes based on my personal interaction with each artist and their work. Since the project began over thirty years ago, *HEROES: Women Artists Who Influence and Inspire* has become a cumulative caption that recognizes these heroic women artists who have had a significant impact on my career and my life. As you familiarize yourself with these artists, their work and their lives, I hope and believe they will become your heroes also.

Serena Bocchino, 2021

Lucia Bocchino	Melissa Meyer
Lee Bontecou	Joan Mitchell
Chakia Booker	Elizabeth Murray
Judith K. Bradsky	Alice Neel
Vija Celmins	Rebecca Purdum
Maria Confalone	Faith Ringgold
Lois Dodd	Susan Rothenberg
Marisol Escobar	Irma Seltz
Helen Frankenthaler	Judith Shea
Judy Glantzman	Lorna Simpson
April Gornik	Sandy Skoglund
Nancy Graves	Joan Snyder
Nancy Grossman	Janet Sobel
Mary Heilmann	Pat Steir
Lee Krāsner	Anne Truitt
Yayoi Kusama	Idelle Weber
Lois Lane	Daisy Youngblood
Colette Lumiere	Nola Zirin
Eva Lundsgaer	



**COLORFORM SERIES**

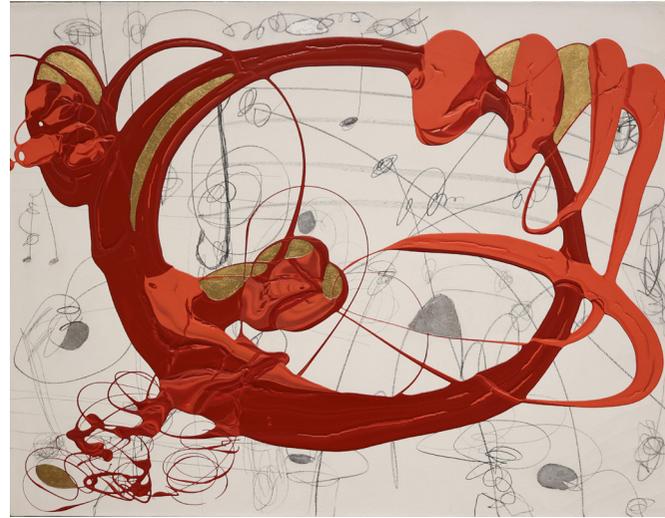


**COLOR THEORY SERIES**

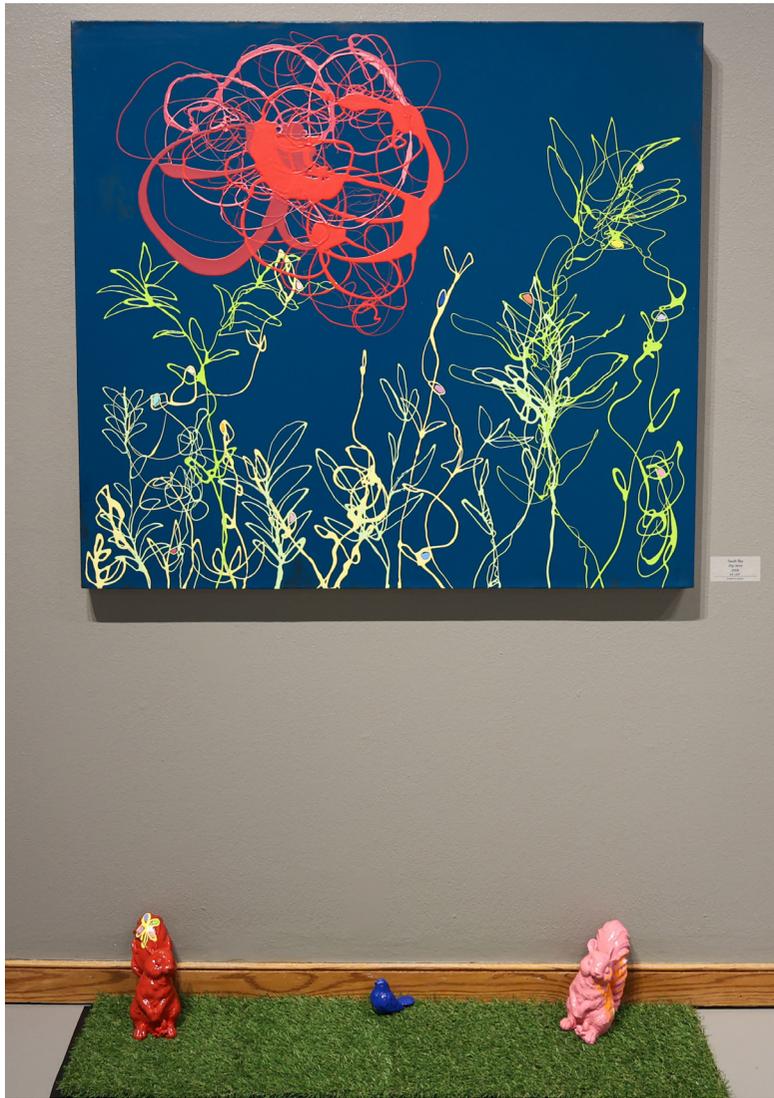
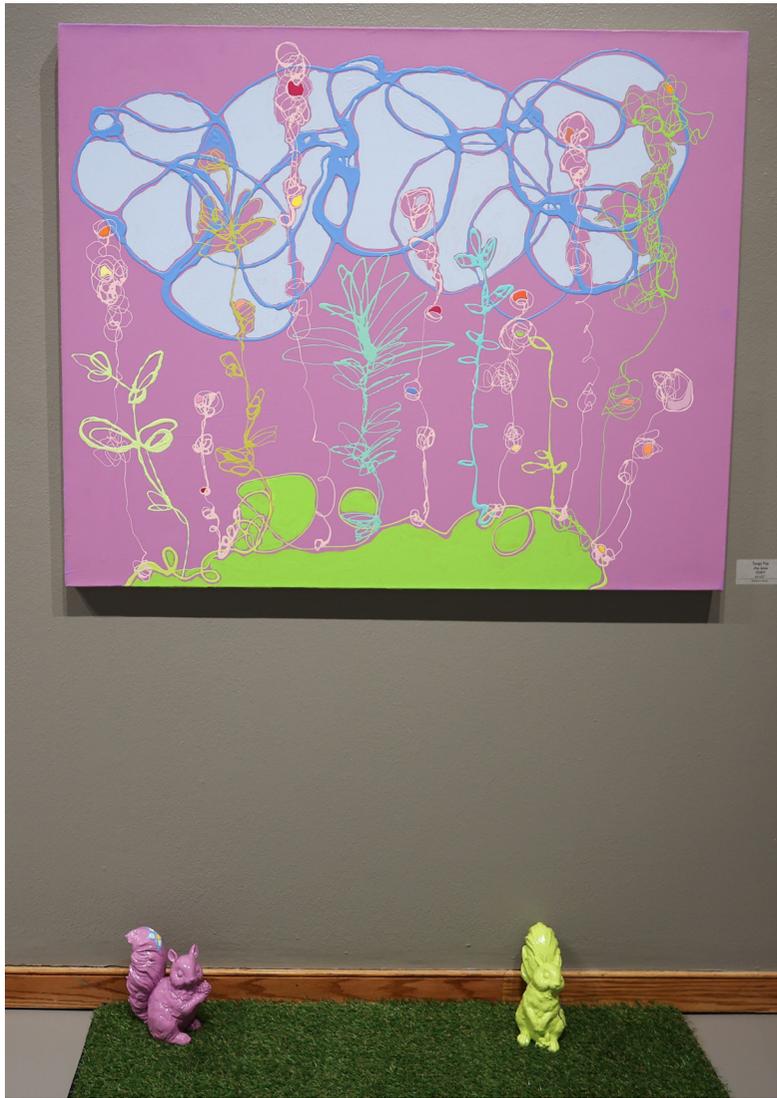




TONDO MIRROR  
INSTALLATION



iPOP SERIES



FEVER SERIES