

# The Washington Post

## In the Galleries: Creating objects of power

By Mark Jenkins June 27, 2014

### Linda Press/Barbara Sussberg

Linda Press and Barbara Sussberg are representational painters, but each presents views only she can see. Their show at Susan Calloway Fine Arts reveals a shared affinity for light and a preference for unpeopled locations. Press's style is detailed and her subjects urban; Sussberg prefers rustic scenes, which she simplifies until they are near abstraction.

Sussberg's pictures are all oriented horizontally, as befits her interest in horizons and the contrast, often subtle, between sky and land or sea. Such titles as "Taking the Ferry Across" hint at human presence, yet it's not quite visible. Instead, the South Carolina artist presents large areas of blue, yellow or orange, layered and dappled to show the effects of diffused light. Sussberg's magnum opus is the thickly impastoed "Water VII," in which glimmers of gray in the dominant blue reflect a steely sky. The basic elements could hardly be simpler, yet the result is complex.

There are a few horizontal vistas in Press's selection, but she tends toward compositions that are vertical and even vertiginous. Mostly depicting picturesque places such as Venice, Paris and Dubrovnik, she offers a bird's-eye or attic-dweller's vantage on narrow streets and canyon-like walls, often hot with direct sunlight. (One apt title is "Bright Italy.") The Maryland artist works from multiple photographs of a scene, sometimes assembled choppily for a mildly Cubist vibe. The effect is discreet, however. Press emphasizes historic locales and traditional techniques, with just a hint of modernist disorientation.

Linda Press/Barbara Sussberg: On view through Saturday at Susan Calloway Fine Arts, 1643 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-965-4601; [www.callowayart.com](http://www.callowayart.com)