TELLURIDE GALLERY OF FINE ART

LéAna Clifton

LéAna Clifton is a Marfa, Texas based artist, born in Pretoria, South Africa, that has been working in mixed-media for over 12 years. She has a passion for large fields of color and contrasting line. For the last 6 years she has focused, almost exclusively, on creating small and large scale abstract images of freight trains running through the far west Texas high-desert, capturing their visceral power, movement, color and contrasting lines.

Clifton was exposed to art and photography at a young age and through photography discovered a portal through which to view the world on her own terms. The camera became her communicator and her escape. As she progressed, the images she created became more obscure, abstract and beautiful. Her photography became more visceral in nature, distilling the elements: light, form, color,

movement and time. She wants the viewer to feel the excitement and dynamism of the moment.

In her most recent body of mixed-media work she brings together her love of abstract, long-exposure photography, with no digital manipulation, and traditional hand techniques such as pencil and paint directly over the photograph. Each piece in this series is completely original.

"I've always been inspired by the visceral nature of light in it's own right. The various photography techniques I use have enabled me to play with light, and hence color and time. To stretch it, to distill it, to break it and redefine it. To use the camera as a tool to paint with light, in a manner. The blur the line between reality and a dream-state. A 4th dimension. The relationship between time and light is also integral to my work. My images capture more than an instant in time- my still images represent many 'instants', merged."

