Karen Mason

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Karen Mason expresses a unique contemporary flair in her bird and floral and paintings through the combination of bold lines, vibrant texture and luminous atmosphere. The influence of heritage and cultural design become evident in her paintings – from the raw expression of Italian Masters style painting, to the balancing of nature’s splendor and imperfection in a contemporary Asian style. The unique translucent atmospheric effect she achieves in her oil and acrylic paintings were influenced by the Italian landscape and the earlier study of watercolor washes and glazing techniques. Mason’s large-scale multi-panel pieces resemble Asian folding screens and can be re-arranged to suit their surroundings. Her paintings can be found in private and corporate collections around the world. She believes that such growing international interest is grounded in her having learned to “look at the world” rather than just see it. Drawing allows Mason to study and absorb her surroundings, while painting allows her to convey back such moments in a meaningful way. Her garden studio offers the opportunity to paint outdoors and spend hours “looking up and at the world” – through the trees and to the open sky, as she watches birds fearlessly jump, twist, and plunge from the security of the branches. Mason’s birds-in-flight series invites the viewer to experience the drama and grace of raptors and shore birds as they maneuver through their world. She then focuses in on the pure character and beckoning eyes of the curious young, yet confident birds – capturing the delicate drama as they cling to the security of a branch in Chinese ink and watercolor on white textured paper. In turn, her sun-drenched trees and pampas field paintings set the mood and are inspirational focal points, capturing the simplicity of traditional woodblock and the spender of liquid landscapes in her oil paintings.