

# ALLEGRETTO'S WHIMSY INSPIRING A MORE CHEERFUL WORLD

From a past that includes stints as an artist's model, a Playboy Bunny, a blues singer and a hairdresser, Pamela Allegretto has risen into rarified air – success in two artistic vocations. Blessed with dual talent – flourishing artist and accomplished author – the Haddam, Conn. resident has found her voice and uses it to advocate for a happier world and to honor the past.

"I always knew I wanted to be an artist, but I needed to make money," Allegretto said, "so I went into hairdressing." After 17 years she sold the business, moved to Hawaii and joined an artists' group in Kona. The critiques the members gave each other "had a profound effect," she said. "We were brutal with each other." The challenge stimulated her and made her realize she could actually paint something and sell it.

Allegretto's paintings portray various subjects – musicians, tropical beach scenes and a great deal of homage to Italian villages and farmers – but in a distinct, whimsical style. Though she has painted traditional landscapes and still lifes, she now finds whimsy the ideal way to promote positivity. "Nothing serious, nothing realistic," she said. "It's all about the colors."

After moving to Connecticut in 2006, Allegretto said some artists told her that, "my work was too bright and too colorful. Nobody's going to buy it." So she tried

going back to traditional. "But my heart isn't in traditional. I prefer color, bright, positive."

A close look at Allegretto's broad online portfolio reveals an artist of deep feelings who is trying to inspire a more unified world through her art. Her most popular selling print, "Citizens of Earth," is an array of hands of different sizes and colors depicting the world's diversity. "It's all the different colors of man coming together. It reminds everyone that we're all citizens of Earth."

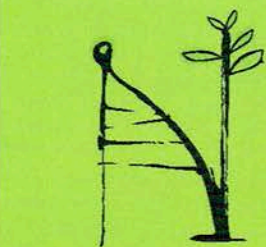
Of "Harmony," inspired by Joan Miró, she said, "It would be wonderful if the whole world could be as understanding and supportive as artists are with each other. We don't care about who lives where and what the politics are of any country. We don't care about race or our religion, or lack of religion. We care about each other as human beings."

In addition to her prolific painting output, Allegretto is an expressive writer. Her published work includes dual-language poetry books, articles in Italian literary journals and a novel entitled "Bridge of Sighs and Dreams." It's a story of Italian civilians during WWII and their struggles to survive not just the Nazi occupation, but traitors and betrayers among them. Relatives clash, divided by conflicting loyalties to the government-in-exile, the Fascists and the Nazis.



Whenever she thought about World War II, she said, "It always used to bother me that people of my generation would make fun of Italians going to war with their hands raised. It was a big joke. Then I would read books about the Resistance and the bravery. I want people to know

**Harmony**, acrylic on wrapped canvas, 14" x 18".



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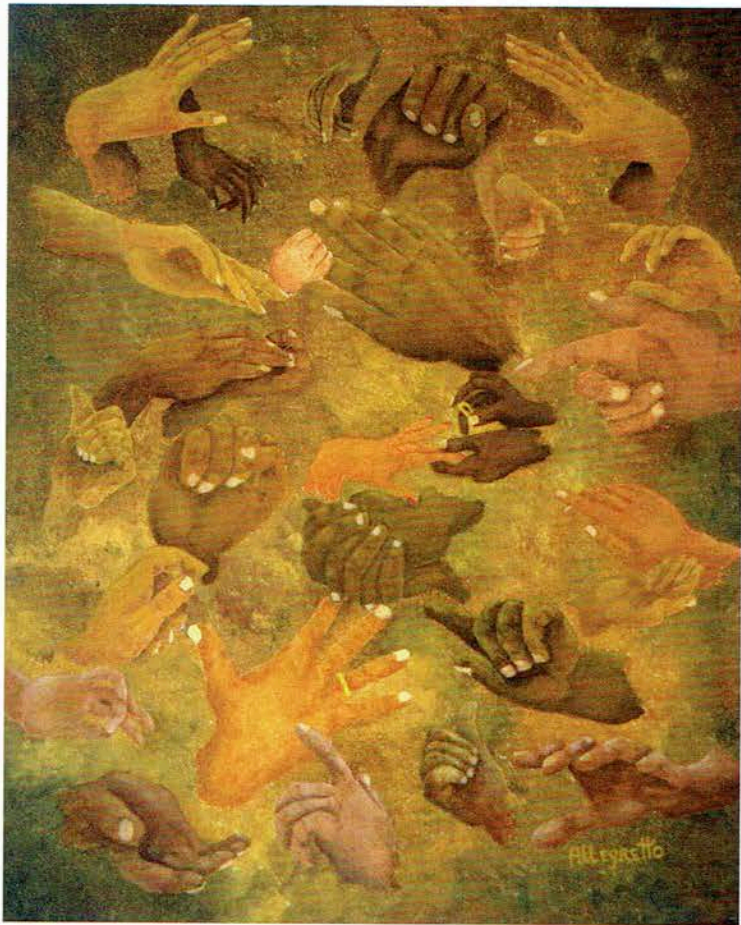
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*Amy Beecher, detail view of Iceberg, 2013, Inkjet print on photores, 36" x 45"*





*Citizens of Earth*, acrylic on wrapped canvas, 16" x 20".

that there were good Germans and bad Germans, good Italians and bad Italians. And I wanted it to be from a woman's perspective. And I wanted the protagonist and antagonist to be strong women."

One of those women, Lidia, is one of the vilest characters this writer has ever come across. "It's almost kind of scary that that character is somewhere in my psyche. I think I dragged up every nasty woman I ever met and never wanted to be."

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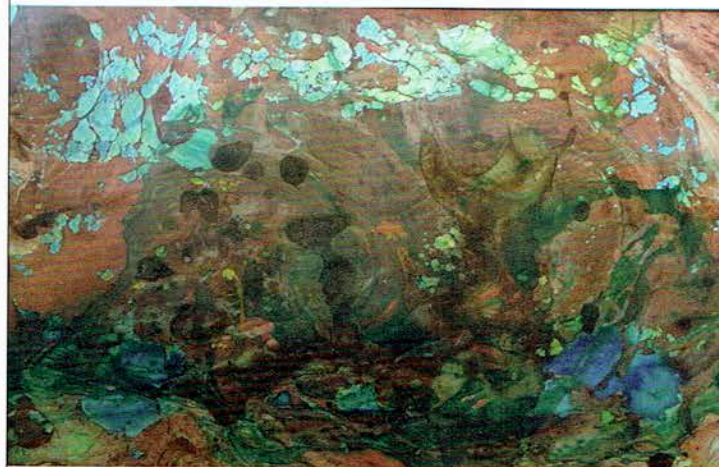
Her advice to aspiring artists is, "Paint what you love. Don't try to copy someone else's style. You can be inspired by someone's style but don't try to copy it. Do it your own way. Eventually you'll find what you're good at. You gotta find your voice."

Alliegretto has found her voice and thinks her personality is reflected in her art "because it's so eclectic." Her forthcoming second novel is about a diamond heist in Venice. Learn more about her art and books at [pamelaallegretto.com](http://pamelaallegretto.com).

| Tom Soboleski

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