

	Artist Biography	Gallerie 505 505 Front Street Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii 96761 808.667.7932 • www.gallerie505.com
	Leslie Lew	



Born in New York City in 1953, Leslie Lew grew up in the suburbs of New Jersey and in Chicago. Her father was a well-known executive art director, and her subject matter was influenced by the commercial ads and products that surrounded her. Her underlying theme deals with childhood memories, and growing up in America. She examines American culture and how it reflects on our tastes historically – good or bad.

For over twenty-five years, Leslie has been painting in a technique that she calls "Sculpted Oils". With thick, sculpturally rich swirls of vivid color, she captures the essence of whatever she depicts, bringing it to life. She received her BFA and MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she studied with Ray Yoshida, who was part of the non-mainstream art movement of the "Hairy Who". It was there that she started her thick style with the "Supermarket" series in which she built out all the products with sculpted oil paint.

During her graduate work, she was invited to participate in the SUNY/ Semester in New York City, a program much like the Whitney Museum, where she was given a studio, and had weekly critiques by respected artists of the time. She ended up staying in NYC and had her first solo show at Sensory Evolution Gallery, as one of the artists from the East Village Art Movement.

Leslie lives and works near Peekskill, NY. She has been a professor at the College of New Rochelle, and was selected for the Westchester Biennial 2006, and 2008. She received a grant for a children's book she wrote and illustrated called, "*Buki's Garden*". Her work has been included in art book publications, "*Encyclopedia of Living Artists in America*", "*East Village: A Guide, A Documentary*", "*East Village 86*", "*Comic Release - Negotiating Identity for a New Generation*", "*Who's Who in America*", "*Who's Who in the World*" and "*The Margulies Collection - at the Warehouse*", released in November 2008.

For the last few years, Leslie has spent most of her time showcasing her paintings in traveling museum exhibitions. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, London, and Sofia, Bulgaria.

She recently has been included in the art history book "*The Martin Z. Margulies Collection*", published by DAP, that showcases his extensive art collection, which includes notables as Lichtenstein, Stella, Warhol, Miro, Rauschenberg, De Kooning, Calder, and Picasso. "Many of the most important and intriguing artists of the 20th and 21st centuries are represented in the collection of Martin Z. Margulies" – a quote from the book.