

Painters Who Just Painted While The Art World Burned
By **Alan Katz**, April 2015

Lauren Tilden. "The good moral work of art should have all the qualities that a good amoral work of art should have, such as formal unity, balance, contrast, and a sensitivity to the material out of which it is made." Norman McLaren
Within the context of moral evaluation in art, subject matter becomes a vehicle for sensitivity . Art becomes a moral agent of personal expression. That a moral sensitivity should bear truthful fruit that feels ripe to the eyes is rewarding to the viewer for the insight and human content projected, as a prayer might ease us into the night. When a painter uses sensitivity as the guide to perception , a meditation unfolds that makes the painter and subject one. American painter Lauren Tilden follows a moral compass that helps navigate her emotions and understanding. Her work eliminates superfluous detail or color and renders her world as organic and life affirming. Her subject matter includes men & women in sensitive roles as caregivers or spirit seekers. Her landscapes are earth driven portrayals of the natural elements, full of the energy of growth and movement. Her paintings of women with young children come from a deep female understanding of that role. Tilden studied at the Pennsylvania Academy with Sydney Goodman, Vincent Desiderio (also in this album) among others, She evolved a style that echo's the Philadelphia tradition that has it's roots in Eakins. Tilden seems also influenced by Wyeth and Nerdrum for their limited palettes and stoic realism. Tilden paints from her heart with a distinct personal vision. Her works convey a positive , contemplative view of what she cares about . They border on poetry and seem less literal and more expressive than much of the portrait work being done today. She seems to be a painter with a reason to paint. To express values and ideas she believes in. I highly recommend a look at her work.

*“Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies
of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll
Contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky”
Frederick Lehman*

<http://www.laurentilden.com>

<http://www.artistsnetwork.com/medium/oil/lauren-tilden>

<http://www.contempaesthetics.org/newvolu.../pages/article.php...>