

Deborah Newton

Deborah L. Newton (May 7, 1942 - May 1, 2019) was an award-winning American artist known for abstract paintings that, in her words, expressed what she felt instead of what she saw. Her celebrated works were inspired by her personal experiences. She was a community leader, an advocate for downtown Rockford Illinois, and a dedicated supporter of other established and emerging artists.



Deborah Newton in Sedona, AZ, 1996

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Born	Deborah Lee Linden May 7, 1942 Rockford, IL USA
Died	May 1, 2019 Lake Geneva, WI USA
Education	John Nelson Elementary, Lincoln Junior High, East High School, Rock Valley College
Known for	Artist/painter, Downtown Rockford and visual art advocate
Style	Abstract expressionism
Spouse	Roger Newton - 1962 to 1984 Joseph Zimmer - 1995 to 2019
Parents	Milton Linden Anne (Johnson)
Children	Brett Newton Paige Newell

Early life

She was born Debby Lee Joan Linden in Rockford, Illinois, the only child of Milton and Anne (Johnson) Linden.

Deborah grew up on South Chicago Avenue in Rockford within walking distance of school and church. Early days included neighborhood front porch games and street sledding with friends. At the age of four, she chose to attend and become a member of Bethesda Covenant Church to which she remained a member until her death.

She excelled at school, qualifying for the Sophomore Honor Group of East High School ¹, and subsequently graduating top of her class in 1960. By 1963 she had completed the radiologic technician program at Rockford Memorial Hospital, married and started a family. While primarily self-taught, she did study painting under Rockford artists Pat Crew, Tom Helfin, and Professor of Art at Rockford College, Andrew Langoussis.

Art Career

Awards and honors:

Throughout the 1960's, Deborah continually painted and began exhibiting her work at local and regional art festivals. By the early 1970s, Deborah had won several first-place and best of show awards statewide including third place in the Adult Division Modern Art Watercolor – Acrylic in the 1971 Trading Post Days Rockton Art Fair ³. By 1986 Deborah was given a purchase award at the Naperville Riverwalk Art exhibition for her painting 'Paradise II,' ⁷² and an award of merit at Rockford Art Expo ⁶⁶.

Impactful on Downtown Rockford and the annual ArtScene, her commitment to art in the community never wavered. In 1990, the annual Heart of Rockford Awards were held at her loft/studio and she was one of six receiving a personal commitment award as part of the Downtown Inc./River East awards ⁸³. She again received the award in 1992 ⁸⁹. That same year she was the first recipient of the Jessica Holt Purchase Award from Rockford Art Museum which brought Deborah's artwork to a new level of recognition when her painting 'Red on the Roof I' was added to the museum's permanent collection ⁸⁵.

By this time, she had received 38 art awards, to be followed the next year with three separate nominations for the Mayor's Arts Award ⁹². Also in 1993 Rockford Mayor Charles Box wrote *he couldn't agree more with members of YWCA's selection committee* when they honored (Deborah) with the Blanche Ellis Star Award for the Arts ⁹³. ⁹⁴. *Your contributions to creating a myriad of 'civilized spaces' in our community are significant, indeed"* ⁹⁵. In 1995 ¹⁰³ and 1996 ^{105, 106} she was the recipient of top honors at the 7th and 8th annual City of Rockford Mayor's Arts Awards. Executive Director of the Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Wendy Perks-Fisher said, "Deborah – you and your spirit have been the catalyst for so much good in Rockford".

On June 24, 2019, Mayor Thomas McNamara of Rockford, Illinois proclaimed **Deborah Newton Day** remarking upon her passion for the arts that started in 1956 when she received a scholarship for classes at Burpee Museum of Art sowing the seed for a life-long passion for visual arts.

At the age 14 she received the Katherine Lord Scholarship to attend classes at Burpee Museum of Art (later known as Rockford Art Museum). Years later in 1986, she wrote, 'artwork done by students is a first experience in creating. It is the first offering that may entice and expand the student into an artist. The legacy of this experience is to express, explore ... and do art.'

Posthumously, in 2021, Deborah was the recipient of Rockford Area Arts Council Lifetime Achievement in the Arts.

Continued learning and community work:

At the same time Deborah was selling her artwork, she pursued added education and personal growth. Her report card from Rock Valley College in spring of 1983 noted straight A marks in Literature and Art History ⁵¹. In the same year she was given a certificate of merit for outstanding student writing from Rock Valley College Division of Communication ⁵³. She became well known among artists and an inspirer of the community-at-large. Deborah would often volunteer to paint and donate works of art to support local arts institutions, and community sites, such as the Saint Anne Center Foundation, the Children's Development Center, Reflections in Hope Breast Cancer Awareness in Art, and a donation of 'a fabulous painted napkin' for the Northern Illinois HIV/AIDS

Network, or when she painted “*Violin*” for Rockford Symphony Orchestra fundraiser and numerous works of art over the years for the annual Rockford Art Museum Evergreen Ball. Deborah too volunteered working the phones at the local 1980’s telethon or in later years at the Lake Geneva Art Foundation gallery.

In 1987, Deborah inspired the concept of ArtScene when she proposed Gallery 10, Kortman Gallery, and 317 Market Street Gallery schedule their openings on the same nights. Eventually the promotions of joint art venues were handed over to the Rockford Area Arts Council in 1988 for the Fall (October) ArtScene. By 2003 the Spring (April) ArtScene was added. In its early days, ArtScene strove to showcase the arts in Rockford with various exhibitions in numerous sites throughout Rockford, specifically in Deborah’s beloved downtown area. In 2022, as part of Spring ArtScene, five venues posthumously displayed Deborah’s artwork.

Patrons and works:

Beginning in the early 1970’s at Rockford Art Museum’s Greenwich Village Art Fair ⁴, Deborah soon began selling works around the country including a diptych to Maurice Hart of Hart and Hardy Law firm in Los Angeles ⁷⁹.

In 1982 several paintings were sold to United Airlines to be placed in their VIP Red Carpet Room at the LAX airport preparing for the 1984 Olympics. Initially what was to be two works — ‘*Inspiration*’ and ‘*Peaceful Feelings In Me*’, each measuring 5’x7’ — became three works. Deborah said, “*When I paint, I sense a certain oneness with my feelings, my recollections. If I strive for a purpose, that purpose is to share those feelings, to resurrect emotions in myself and others that will elevate the spirit and help us grow.*” ^{48, 49, 52, 56, 57}

By 1988, her paintings were in over 500 local and national homes, offices, and other commercial settings ⁷⁷.

Largely a self-taught artist, Deborah created many hundreds of paintings with works to be found in private collections throughout the United States and in corporate collections including McDonald’s Corporation in Oak Brook, Illinois, United Airlines in Los Angeles, California and the office of Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White in Springfield, Illinois.

Style and influence:

Her work may be categorized as abstract expressionist - celebrating color and natural life. Her inspirations were many... places, experiences, her mother and father, other artists, singers, writers, and leaders.

Deborah lived among the cornfields during various earlier years in Caledonia (Illinois). Her studio was tucked behind a rolling field which she tunneled through to reach her home. Deborah frequently included corn and cornfields in her emotional work which became a signature style stating, ‘*I am an optimistic person and very sensitive to the beautiful setting of this rural area*’.

From the early 1970’s, her paintings were acrylic on raw, non-gessoed, canvas with ½” thick wood frames she added to edges of stretchers herself. Deborah’s early work, influenced by her mentors, featured more earthy, warm colors, which evolved in later work to be colorful and expressive. She became proficient in extending the painted surface to the edges of the stretcher canvases which allowed her to omit the frames. Deborah felt that her paintings ‘*speak to solitary suffering and that an artist searches for healing potential found in the creative process....art, by its nature, facilitates this cathartic conscious-making journey.*’

In her artist’s statement for one exhibit, she wrote: “*Thank you, ‘ravinia’ The spaces between the branches...illuminated in the summer night sky as we lay on our backs...music sways the trees...as we and God spend an evening together. How do you paint the experience?*” “*Conversation with an angel at four a.m. Have you ever agonized or worried about something in the middle of the night? This is the feeling of supreme comfort visualized after that hour a.m. prayer.*” *The healing series – yes “This is my celebration of healing. (one of my hallelujahs).”*

With her move to downtown Rockford, Deborah’s artwork reflected her life as a full-time artist and the urban art scene grew as she did. When she later shifted her city dwelling back to a rural setting in Lake Geneva, WI, her work changed again to reflect the rolling farm fields of Wisconsin. The seasons are marked in the cornfields from knee-high green summers to the umber hues of fall. She also enjoyed a solitary painting retreat at Lake Kegonsa, WI where, as a child, she vacationed with her maternal grandparents in their lakeside cabin. Of the solitary experiences she said, “*KEGONSA every summer at the lakein a room sized bed ...on a sunbathed pier ...the lapping waves ... filled me*”.

Starting in 1985 she traveled...to Mexico (Mexico City, Ucatan), Portugal (Lisbon, Sintra, Cascais), North/South Carolina, Washington DC, New Mexico (Taos, Santa Fe), Chicago, Milwaukee, Arizona (Tucson, Phoenix, Sedona, Flagstaff), Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Greece (Mainland and Islands of Mykonos, Naxos and Crete), Caribbean Islands (Grand Cayman, Jamaica), Spain (Barcelona, Isle of Menorca) and Italy (Milan, Como, Bellagio, Garda, Venice). Experiences during these travels, recorded as feelings, inspired many paintings.

Deborah's many worldly travels let her see and feel the world in a new way and captured her imagination and spurred her: *'I am an artist seduced by my senses and to paint works of art like 'The Desert Intrigues me' and 'Places We Fly'. "What I see and feel is put on canvas in color ... to elevate everydayness to a simple form of love. My fascination these days is with long views ... ordinary terrain seen as glorious surprise ... and gratitude. My work concerns landscape, near and far ... painted in abstract yet celebrative style."* Deborah described her work as an intuitive experience/feeling in color ... mostly people ... essences ... symbolic portraits.

Deborah always had a fascination with the beauty and pride of the peacock and the showy element it played in nature. This inspired a playful color palette and the radiant structure she was so fond of. Many of her works were part of a series (theme/title). Many had a special signature - a tulip which she carried in her first wedding on September 1, 1962. Deborah's illusion of peach tulips in her *'Rapture in Bloom'* takes the 1950's technical inspiration of the American abstract expressionist artist Helen Frankenthaler and adapted her great washes of color on unprimed canvas to her own refreshing, personal style with *'images that weave in and out of the canvas, never fully disclosing themselves, yet tantalizing the viewer'*.

Various painting titles reflect Deborah's deep interest in words, literature, writing and connecting the written word to a visual image and her emotions. *'Painting is almost like breathing. It's a necessary fact of expression' ... 'I try to paint an emotion' ... not when one's feeling bad, but rather loving life and being upbeat'*.

Real Estate Development

317 Market Street:

In 1984 Deborah purchased the 80-year-old former Rockford Illustrating Company and developed the downtown commercial building into tenant lofts and a common space gallery exhibiting works by guest artists ⁶⁷. The building became known as 317 Market Street Gallery and was the home and a studio for Deborah and six artist/creative professionals that lived or worked in their own spaces. On the earliest 'opening' invitation postcards she wrote, *'a place where art, the artist and the public become one'*.

Deborah would later say that the sunlight from above filled her with joy and let her dream and 'feel' what she would paint. It was the rooftop garden addition in 1991 that influenced much of her work including *'Red on the Roof I'*. Deborah said of this painting *'I didn't take photos (of the geraniums). I didn't look at them. I just felt them'*.

The development of 317 exposed her work to a larger audience yet again; selling seven paintings at the first opening in September (1985). For over 20 years, until she sold the building in 2004 ¹³⁴, she and tenants hosted 80 exhibitions, for hundreds of visual artists in the guest gallery. With other local pioneers, 317 Market Street Gallery helped re-establish vitality into downtown Rockford. The October 1990 issue of Rockford Magazine article entitled 'Painting a Trail' described Deborah as *'having guts and vision – thus a pioneer not afraid to take a chance on a part of town others had given up on – she put her money where her mouth is not knowing if she would make any of her investment back. She did it on faith.'* Deborah and Gallery 10 co-owner Charlene Berg were credited with fueling interest locally. Charlene was quoted saying: *'Deborah Newton set a very high standard for women in the arts and at first she was all alone in the downtown area'* ^e.

The large wood island in Deborah's kitchen space at 317 became infamous, where artists, educators, patrons, locals, and executives would gather and became Rockford's own version of King Arthur's 'round table' - a place where everyone was equal and welcome.

Simera:

Starting in 2003, Deborah and her husband, Architect Joseph Zimmer designed and constructed a home/studio on the site of a fallen barn south of Geneva Lake in Southeastern Wisconsin into what Joseph named Simera

(Greek word for 'today'). In 2009, Simera received a Silver medal award from the Association of Licensed Architects. In 2014, it was featured in HGTV's series titled, "You Live in What", Season 3, Episode 5¹.

Akti:

In October 2006, Deborah and Joe moved a block East of 317 Market Street into their next project that Deborah named 'Akti', the Greek word referring to a 'flat place on the edge of a beach'. The unique brick structure at the Southwest corner of Market and Second streets was originally a 1930's fuel station/auto bumper repair shop. The 14-month long renovation into home and studio expressed their creative personalities. They were recognized by the City of Rockford, downtown business owners and residents when it won a River District Association Heart of Rockford Award in 2007¹³⁵.

From 2006 through 2012, they split their time between Akti and Simera. From 2012 through 2017 they lived and worked at Simera alone.

Personal Life and death

Deborah was the only child of Milton Linden and Anne (Johnson). She married her high school sweetheart, Roger Newton, in 1962 at the age of 20. They had two children - Brett (1963) and Paige (1967). Roger was a carpenter/builder and, with Deborah's designs, they created and constructed multiple homes throughout their 20 years, many of which they lived in.

Deborah experienced several physical challenges starting in her mid 20's - her painting was often a way she found her way through them.

Between 1982 and 1984, Deborah divorced and lost both of her parents to cancer. She purchased and developed 317 Market Street Gallery and in 1995, following a seven-year courtship, she married Architect Joseph Zimmer.

In the winter of 2017, with her health and stamina declining, Deborah, with Joseph, moved into the City of Lake Geneva and continued to paint, but no longer exhibited. Her death followed approximately seventeen months later.

She wrote in 2012 that she had sold over 1700 works and near her death in 2019 verbally speculated it could have been as many as 3000.

Paintings

See www.deborahnewton.com/artist-stacked (paintings are not shown in this biography)

Legacy Endowment and awards

See <https://cfnil.org/deborah-newton-legacy-endowment>

To, in essence, give what she herself received – a Katherine Lord Scholarship (1956) and the first Jessica Holt purchase award (1992) – both from what is now the Rockford Art Museum.

Just as *Katherine Lord* and *Jessica Holt* were female artists from the Rockford region who chose to introduce students to art through art lesson scholarships or purchase active artists work to add to the Rockford Art Museum's permanent collection, the Deborah Newton Legacy Endowment was established on September 16, 2021, at the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) with the Rockford Art Museum (RAM) as its designated beneficiary. In August of 2023, RAM, due to reductions in staff, decided it would no longer orchestrate the Deborah Newton Awards. In January of 2024 Womanspace of Rockford formally decided to take over the opportunity and responsibility. Distribution of annual interest only from CFNIL to Womanspace will fund awards at perpetuity.

Womanspace is to annually issue awards for either:

- Art making experiences offered by Womanspace or other art organizations/individuals through Womanspace to 'sow seeds' inspiring 7th and 8th grade students

or

- Recognition of active visual artists via monetary, purchase, exhibition, or stipend/commission of their work within Womanspace or other venues curated in cooperation with Womanspace in the Rockford area (Winnebago to West, Rockton/South Beloit to North, Belvidere to East, New Milford to South)

See https://womanspace-rockford.org/DLN_Awards

Publications and airings (black print items support/verify text above)

- a. 1971 - 2010 newspaper articles - see references, articles, and awards below
- b. 1986, September Rockford Magazine issue article by Kim Glasbrenner 'A Glimpse into some galleries' including 317 Market Street, 80-year-old former Rockford Illustrating Company now occupied by Anna Ohalla, Steve Pitkin, Ann Stegall, Mark Ellena, Elisa Reitsch and Deborah Newton
- c. 1988, October Rockford Magazine issue article 'the City in Pictures' with photos by K.C. Keefer including photo of Deborah Newton in her studio at 317 Market Street
- d. 1989, March Designer specifier magazine article 'A Lawyer's '90s Look' about law offices of Hart and Hardy, Los Angeles that includes photo of lobby with Deborah Newton diptych sold to firm in 1985
- e. 1991, August Rockford Magazine issue article 'painting a trail' by Kim kaiser with photography by Hans Rupert nearly exclusively about Deborah, her work, her renovation of 317 Market Street, her family, her neighborhood and describing her as having guts and vision - thus a pioneer not afraid to take a chance on a part of town others had given up on - she put her money where her mouth is not knowing if she would make any of her investment back. She did it on faith.
- f. 1994, May 31 Rockford Magazine article 'Found Art' including, amongst other art venues, describes Deborah Newton, 317 Market Street from the Rockford Illustrating Company and the guest gallery not needing to be 'commercial/salable art' while it has proven a great way to draw people in
- g. 2001, Summer Chicago Home and Garden magazine article about a barrier free home in suburban Chicago where two Deborah Newton paintings hang. 'Tulips in Winter' and 'Book of days' connected feelings of what she was trying to say...how illuminating life can be, at times, and how every day counts
- h. 2004 - Art Rockford by Jeanne Coe | John Hurley 2004 includes as one of 120 artists
- i. 2014, August - Season 3 Episode 5. HGTV "You live in what", features 'Simera'

References, articles and awards (black printed items support/verify text above)

1. 1958 - May 26 letter from East High School to Mr. and Mrs. Linden indicating Debby qualifying for Sophomore Honor Group
2. 1971 - newspaper article listing Deborah Newton as Art Exhibitor - Adult Division as oil First Day judging results at Winnebago Fair
3. 1972 - August 27 newspaper article Deborah Newton listed as 3rd place winner in Adult Division Modern Art in 1971 Trading Post Days Rockton Art Fair
4. 1972 - September 16 & 17 Deborah Newton listed as space 22 exhibitor at 24th annual Greenwich Village Fair
5. 1972 - newspaper article indicating Deborah Newton work featured at Sales & rental Gallery at Rockford Art Association, her first-place award in Town and Country Art Show, and ribbons in Belvidere Art Show and Winnebago County Fair in 1971
6. 1973 - March 24 & 25 Deborah Newton listed in space N-20 at East Town Mall's Fine Arts Show in Madison, WI
7. 1973 - August 19 Deborah Newton listed as Rockton Art Fair exhibitor and 1972 Adult Division Watercolor-Acrylic 2nd place winner
8. 1973 - September 15 & 16 Deborah Newton listed as space 9 exhibitor at 25th annual Greenwich Village Fair
9. 1973 - December 4 inventory of 10 paintings by Deborah Newton at Old Courthouse and Jail gallery in Woodstock, IL
10. 1973 - newspaper article written by Leona Carlson listing Deborah Newton as one of artists at 13th annual Town and Country Amateur Art Show at the Farm Bureau Auditorium
11. 1974 - March 30-31 Deborah Newton listed as space L4 exhibitor at CherryVale Art Fair
12. 1974 - June 30 Deborah Newton listed as space 15 exhibitor at Belvidere Woman's Club 11th annual art show "Sunday in the Park"
13. 1974 - newspaper article listing Deborah Newton as one of area artists presenting at Town and Country Fair presented by Lake Geneva Garden Club opening at Horticulture Hall
14. 1974 - September 14 & 15 Deborah Newton listed as space 11 exhibitor at 26th annual Greenwich Village Fair
15. 1974 - newspaper article regarding Rockford artist Deborah Newton presenting one woman show of original paintings in "The Gallery" of North Suburban Library and indicating she had won numerous top honors at several area art shows
16. 1975 - 'Art briefs' listing Caledonia Deborah Newton won top honors at 15th annual Naperville Art Fair - best of show among 200 entrants
17. 1975 - newspaper article Art calendar listing Deborah Newton, Caledonia for one of three blue ribbon winners at Regional Town and Country Amateur Art Exhibit in Dekalb (IL)
18. 1975 - newspaper article by Mrs. LeeAnn Johnson listing Deborah Newton as one of 16 artists that participated in Woman's History Week Art Exhibit sponsored by the Woman's Financial Center/Illinois National Bank
19. 1976 - June 12 newspaper article by Ida L. Burleigh with photo of Deborah Newton in her studio at 580 Kelly Road, Caledonia, IL listing her teachers, many shows, her explaining she paints what she feels, not what she sees, and every painting is original and her intent to donate and exhibit at 13th annual Belvidere Art Show
20. 1976 - December 5 newspaper ad listing Deborah Newton as one of 10 artists exhibiting at Thompson's carpets and interiors art for the holidays
21. 1977 - July 18 letter from Tom Heflin regarding 160-page book of his work going to press with reserve orders at \$37 to be available by October 28 art exhibit at Henrici's Clock Tower Inn
22. 1977 - newspaper article regarding art show by federated Belvidere Woman's Club listing Deborah Newton, Belvidere as one of Acrylics winners and John Libowski, then sophomore at Rockford College as winner of best of show
23. 1977 - Deborah Newton brochure list of showings from June 10 through September 19 including Madison Art Fair on the square, Naperville art show, Rock Prairie Showcase in Beloit WI, Tallman Festival in Janesville WI, Chicago Gold Coast art fair, Oakbrook Promenade in Oakbrook Centre IL, Greenwich Village Fair or anytime at studio at 580 Kelly Road, Caledonia
24. 1978 - January 30 letter from Bob Collins of WGN Radio thanking Deborah for her very nice note of January 15th and hope that she keeps warm in that sun-filled kitchen
25. 1978 - August 19 Belvidere Daily Republican full page article 'Art of living...in the country about Bonnie Hinde, Debbie Newton, Roger Newton and Jerry Sawyer who all live on Kelly Road

26. 1978 - October 19 Register Star newspaper article indicating Deborah Newton as participant in Sunday, October 22 Art walk
27. 1978 -October 20 Register Star newspaper article by Leona Carlson 'Sunday home tour features art in art' within 5 homes in Imperial Oaks subdivision in Northeast Rockford with Deborah Newtons as one of participants
28. 1978 - Purchase Award from Bank of Wisconsin at 26th annual Tallman Festival issued to Deborah Newton
29. 1978 - Deborah Newton brochure list of showings from June 16 through February 1979 including Milwaukee lakefront, Naperville art show, Chicago Gold Coast Art Fair, Greenwich Village Fair, Rockford Memorial hospital gallery, or anytime at studio at 580 Kelly Road, Caledonia
30. 1979 - April 5 newspaper article indicating Deborah Newton on display at St. Joseph's Hospital in Belvidere (IL)
31. 1979 - April 13 Belvidere Daily Republican article 'Newton exhibits work' by Ida Burleigh about three Debra Newton paintings in lounges of St. Joseph's Hospital and that she'd been painting for 11 years and won 29 awards and that each of her paintings is an original subject of her own individual style
32. 1979 - Deborah Newton brochure list of showings from June 30 through November 18 including one woman show at United bank of Westgate Madison WI, Belvidere Art Show, Naperville art show, Chicago Gold Coast Art Fair, Rock Prairie Showcase Festival at Beloit College, Rockton Art Fair, Greenwich Village Fair, one woman show at Bethesda Church, Streams Club Invitational Wheaton IL or anytime at studio at 580 Kelly Road, Caledonia
33. 1979 - September 14 Register Star newspaper article listing Deborah Newton as one of exhibitors at Greenwich Village Fair
34. 1979 - September 15 & 16 Greenwich Village Fair exhibitors list with Deborah Newton at space 12
35. 1979 - Greenwich Village Fair purchase award to Deborah Newton
36. 1980 - March 4-31 Rock Valley College show card of four Rockford Artists including Deborah Newton
37. 1980 - newspaper article by Co Leber regarding CDC annual fund-raising dinner to include work of 30 artists, including Deborah Newton
38. 1981 - July 5-26 list of Rockford artists at Burpee Art Museum includes Deborah Newton
39. 1981 - Deborah Newton card listing of shows from June 20 through October 25 including Beverly art center art festival in Chicago, Rockford art exhibition at Burpee Art Museum, Oshkosh Museum Art fair, mile of art Milwaukee, art happening St. Louis, Greenwich Village Fair, Rockford Glen Ellyn fine arts fair, Rocvale benefit art show, Yorktown art showcase, Lombard IL or anytime at studio at 580 Kelly Road, Caledonia
40. 1981 - yellow ribbon from Oconomowoc Festival of the Arts Ltd.
41. 1981 - newspaper article indicating paintings by Debra Newton exhibited at Maka Gallery in Rock Island
42. 1981 - September 23 Belvidere Daily Republican article about Greenwich Village Art Fair with photo of Jerome Weiskopf viewing Deborah Newton painting and quoted saying ' he wanted to buy her painting because it was not super realistic' and her pleased response of 'he wants to make it mean the way he wants it' and quoted as saying ' They see something in it that they can identify with...' Indicates she was winner of 31 awards in the past 10 years and quoted saying 'I like to inspire people'....'I paint what feel instead of what I see'....'Painting is almost like breathing. It's a necessary fact of expression'...I try to paint an emotion' Her work is displayed at Gallery One - Rockford, Design Gallery - Scottsdale, Tower Park Gallery - Peoria
43. 1981 - October 4 Rocvale children's home arts festival and open house brochure lists Deborah Newton, painter as one of 12 artists
44. 1982 - Deborah Newton flier listing of shows from May 18 through November including Greenbook fine arts festival, Hanover Park, one woman show playboy club resort, Lake Geneva, festival of the arts body politic theatre, Chicago, lakeview park, Peoria, Milwaukee lakefront festival, Madison on the square art fair, Rock Prairie showcase festival, Beloit College, Gold Coast Art Fair, Chicago, Greenwich Village Fair, Rockford St. Joseph's hospital, Belvidere or anytime at studio at 580 Kelly Road, Caledonia
45. 1982 - July 17-18 Naperville Woman's Club 23rd annual Art Fair booklet lists Deborah Newton, Caledonia as painting (Acrylic) exhibitor
46. 1982 - newspaper article indicating Deborah Newton acrylics on display in the gallery corridor at Rockford Memorial Hospital through November
47. 1982 newspaper article indicating Gallery One exhibiting acrylic abstracts by Deborah Newton before and during New American Theater 'Da' performances and indicating she currently was represented in galleries in Peoria, Columbus, Ind. & Paradise Valley, AZ
48. 1982 - March 24 floor plan blueprint by R. Koch, Architect at United Airlines, with location where two paintings to be hung at LAX VIP lounge
49. 1982 - September 15 letter from Robert K. Koch, sending floor plan with location of two commissioned works, along with samples of fabric, upholstery, carpet, and wallcovering to aid in execution of her work
50. 1982 - Fall Rock Valley College report card (literature - A)
51. 1983 - Spring Rock Valley College report cards (literature in Spring, Literature and Art History in fall - strait A's)
52. 1983 - February 2 newspaper article by Leona Carlson 'Los Angeles airport discovers Rockford artist' to be 'Inspiration' and 'Peaceful feelings in Me' to hang in VIP Red Carpet Room of United Airlines in preparation for the 1984 Olympics. Deborah quoted saying my best year ever in 10 years of exhibiting
53. 1983 - April certificate of merit to Deborah Newton for outstanding student writing from Rock Valley College Division of Communications
54. 1983 - November 13 card from Thompson's Design Forum for private exhibition of 6 artists including Deborah Newton
55. 1982 - Deborah Newton card listing of shows from June 16 through September including Naperville Art Fair, Art in the Arboretum, Freeport, Gold Coast Art Fair, Chicago, Four lakes Village art fair, Lisle, Oakbrook Promenade, Oakbrook Center, Rock Prairie Showcase, Beloit College, Greenwich Village Fair or anytime at studio at 580 Kelly Road, Caledonia
56. 1983 - January 27 United Airlines purchase order 02838 for a 3'x5' painting to add to two paintings previously purchased for hanging in LAX VIP lounge
57. 1983 - newspaper article by Florence Fritsch 'Caledonia woman's art appears in airport lounge. Three works are to be within the Los Angeles United VIP lounge being remodeled in preparation for the 1984 Olympics. The Architect whom selected her work commissioned her when she was exhibiting at Oak brook center in the fall of 1981. She had exhibited in juried shows across the country, placed more than 300 paintings in private and corporate collections and won 34 awards in the past 12 years. She had been asked to paint 'A Glimpse of Dawn' that hangs in Gregory School in memory of Sharon Ziener, a teacher who had, Like Deborah's father and mother, died of cancer. She was quoted saying 'When I paint, I sense a certain oneness with my feelings, my recollections. If I strive for a purpose, that purpose is to share those feelings, to resurrect emotions in myself and others that will elevate the spirit and help us grow'.
58. 1983 - March 25 Rockford Register Star 'calendar' section listing Deborah Newton paintings at canterbury Books and Fine Arts
59. 1983 - newspaper article indicating Deborah Newton received an honorable mention at Rock Valley College Spring Arts fair
60. 1984 - May 6 booklet from Oak Village Gallery Janesville for 'Windows' gallery theme show listing 'Mexicana Flight 38048A' - a sight experienced through the window.
61. 1984 - May 17 Register Star advertisement for paintings of Deborah Newton at Milady's Garden
62. 1984 - spring Rock Valley College report card (Art, PHL, SPC - strait A's)
63. 1984 - Deborah Newton card listing of shows from May 18 through September 23 including one woman show at Katherine's Rockford, Naperville Art Show, Gold Coast Art Fair, Chicago, Lakefront Art Festival, Michigan City, IN, Oakbrook Promenade, Oakbrook Center, Greenwich Village Fair, Rockford, Rock Prairie Showcase Festival, Beloit College or anytime at studio at 580 Kelly Road, Caledonia
64. 1984 - September article by Deborah in Rockford Ostomy 'the reroute's review' titled 'Maravilloso!' about her exhilarating weeklong trip in Mexico via Rock Valley College's MEX 201 three credit class telling she did so with the ileostomy she'd had for twelve years
65. 1984 - Fall Rock Valley College report card (Lit - A)
66. 1985 - March 22 letter from Daniel Timko, Rock Valley College, with congratulations for being winner of award of merit at Rockford Art Expo

67. 1985 - September 20 Register Star newspaper article by Diane Beulke 'Artist's brush touches up building' with photo of Deborah Newton, Mark Ellena, Richard Wanke under skylight at 317 Market Street. Indicates she took possession in February and within seven months cleared mess and clutter for first group showing
68. 1986 - February 9-23 Bergner's Northwest Illinois Scholastic Art Awards Exhibit invitation for which Deborah was one of four judges
69. 1986 - February 20 letter from YWCA leader luncheon congratulating on nomination for business recognition award to be held at Clock tower Inn on March 5 listing 317 Market Street as one of corporate nominees
70. 1986 - Deborah Newton card listing of shows in Chicago from August 8 through September 21 including Gold Coast Art Fair, Chicago, Riverwalk, Naperville or anytime at 317 Market Street studio/gallery, downtown Rockford
71. 1986 - September 26-28 grand opening invitation/brochure for 317 Market Street Gallery with information about building renovation, those thanked by Deborah in making it possible, the gallery's purpose and names of 7 anchor tenants
72. 1986 - October 19 Register Star newspaper article by Leona Carlson 'Spotlight focuses on Illinois state of the art' includes Deborah Newton receiving top purchase award at riverwalk Art exhibition in Naperville the previous month
73. 1986 - October 23 Register Star newspaper article about YMCA Retired Men's Club Martin Dewitt art opening gathering which Deborah attended with her Aunt Myrtle and Myrtles escort Bernard Magnuson
74. 1987 - January 28 Rockford Journal newspaper article 'Snow sculpture contest winners 1987 - SECOND PLACE was George Farbotko, Deborah Newton, Lawrence Johnson
75. 1987 - May 11 Register Star newspaper article by Peggy Howe 'Her vision of life' cover page of today section description of her process of work, openings, others at 317 and interpretations of her '*Time To Be Born*' painting starting a series.
76. 1987 - November 27 Register Star newspaper article by Lynn Pauly 'Wearable art' with photo of Deborah outside 317 Market Street entrance with 5 painted white denim jackets
77. 1988 - March 3 Register Star women's history advertising section with Deborah Newton listed/photographed indicating her celebrative paintings are found in over 500 local and national private homes and offices
78. 1989 - April 1 Register Star newspaper article by Gail Baruch 'Separated at Birth?' with side-by-side photos of Deborah and Bette Miller
79. 1989 - April 12 Register Star newspaper article by Leona Carlson 'Artist's work adorns national offices' indicates diptych paintings by Deborah Newton, chatelaine of 317 Market Street studio-gallery, is focal point in law firm's 9600 ft2 quarters in Watt Plaza Building in Los Angeles
80. 1989 - November 15 Register Star newspaper article by Leona Carlson 'Rockford architect, designers mix styles' indicates that from more than 600 entries Architecture magazine's October issue includes chair designed by Joseph Zimmer for Deborah Newton to reflect Newton's art and persona as well as function as her desk chair
81. 1989 - November newspaper advertisement for WQRF-TV channel 39 airing of 'profile' including 'a woman builds an artistic dream'
82. 1989 - Deborah Newton brochure, design by Anna Ohalla including 3 painting images, artist statement and list of 24 corporate patrons plus over 700 paintings in private collections nationally
83. 1990 - May newsletter by Downtown, Inc. listing Ms. Deborah Newton as one of the personal award recipients of the fourth annual Heart of Rockford Awards
84. 1991 - August Register Star newspaper article by Jim Lenahan 'Feasting on Art' about progressive dinner on August 17 - Deborah Newton hosting desert and coffee portion from 9 PM to midnight. Includes a photo by Brad Burt of Deborah in her studio behind painting 'Red on the Roof' and she states she has been an artist for 25 years and whose works have been commissioned by such corporations as United Airlines and McDonalds.
85. 1992 - letter of acceptance by Deborah for winning the first annual Jessica Holt purchase award from Rockford Art Museum
86. 1992 - February 28 Register Star newspaper article by Julie Snively 'Painting goes from garden to gallery'
87. 1992 - Register Star newspaper article '317 Market Street Gallery' regarding upcoming Eric Nofsinger in his first solo show
88. 1992 - March 19 invitation postcard to the Mayor's Arts Award Reception to be held March 27 at the Coronado Theatre Mezzanine
89. 1992 - May 17 Register Star newspaper 'making the scene' page includes photo of Deborah with Rockford Fire Chief on Wednesday during River East and Downtown Inc. reception for the 6th annual Heart of Rockford Awards held at her loft/studio at 317 Market Street where she received the personal commitment award
90. 1992 - August 7 Register Star newspaper article 'Women unveil artistic flair' where Wanie Reeverts of Gallery Ten credits nationally known artist Deborah Newton of 317 Market Street and Gallery ten co-owner Charlene Berg with fueling interest locally. 'Deborah Newton sets a very high standard for women in the arts and at first she was all alone in the downtown area'.
91. 1993 - January resume including present activities/affiliations, past affiliations and awards including 38 art awards for painting from 1971 to 1992
92. 1993 - January 29 nomination from River East and letters of support from Alvin Becker of Rockford Central Area Commission and Thomas Furst of YMCA Board of Directors for the Blanche Ellis Starr award for the Arts
93. 1993 - March 2 Register Star newspaper article listing and group photo of YWCA leader luncheon award winners (total of 11) - Deborah Newton winning the Blanche Ellis Starr Award for the Arts
94. 1993 - March 10 letter from Jo Baker - congratulations from a past leader luncheon award winner saying you've contributed so much to the lives of so many
95. 1993 - March 10 letter from Mayor Charles Box 'Your contributions to creating a myriad of 'civilized spaces' in our community are significant, indeed.
96. 1993 - July 11 program for St. Charles, IL Art Music Festival regional invitational exhibition listing Deborah Newton
97. 1993 - October 20 Register Star newspaper opinions section/page with submittal by Deborah Newton 'Art alive' regarding hundreds viewing Rockford Art Scene's annual simultaneous gallery and studio openings
98. 1994 - January 21 through March 25 Weis Morris invitational art show featuring work of 34 artists including Deborah Newton
99. 1994 - June 11 - July 23 St Charles Norris Cultural Arts Center invitational exhibition to celebrate landscapes in all media by 62 artists including deborah NEWTON
100. 1994 - 317 Market Street Gallery Tenth Anniversary Season brochure with photo of 11 tenants on the building's rooftop
101. 1994 - Deborah Newton brochure designed by Anna Ohalla with several images of work and list of 34 corporate customers plus over 900 paintings in private collections nationally
102. 1995 - March 20 meeting invitation for annual meeting of Friends of Rockford Art Museum (FORAM) to be held in Deborah Newton studio/residence
103. 1995 - May 10 Register Star newspaper article '11 nominees announced for Mayor's Arts Award including Deborah Newton
104. 1995 - December 8 317 Market Street silent auction opening postcard
105. 1996 - May Register Star newspaper article about 250 people attending 8th annual Mayor's Arts Awards and Garden walk at Klehm Arboretum where Deborah received individual award for making a significant contribution to the arts and whose contribution has made a lasting impact on the community
106. 1996 - May 31 Register Star newspaper article 'Sun shines on Mayor's Arts Awards' including photo of Deborah nest to Corky Dell where Deborah received top honor of the evening
107. 1996 - August 23 Rockford Art Museum Stateline Vicinity Exhibition brochure listing Deborah Newton as one of artists in exhibit curated by Scott Snyder
108. 1996 - August 31 Oakbrook Center Invitational Fine Art exhibition flier listing Deborah Newton as exhibitor 114 of 182 total in area 3 when Anne B. Loudon was marketing manager for the Center

109. 1997 - March RAM (Rockford Art Museum) newspaper article 'Spiritual Healing Through the Process of Making Art and Music' speaks to solitary, suffering artist searches for healing potential found in the creative process....art, by its nature, facilitates this cathartic conscious-making journey
110. 1997 - March 15 Rockford College 'Extraordinary Women in the Arts' booklet listing Deborah Newton in the name of Anne Linden as one of Uncommon Women supporting Uncommon Lives
111. 1997 - May 11 Register Star newspaper article by Brian Leaf 'Local artists bank on private collectors' about Tom Heflin, Robert McCauley and Deborah Newton who had done 1200 paintings in past 25 years noting her work can be found in Sundstrand, Clarcor, McDonald's Corp. and United Airlines and including photo of Deborah installing one of three paintings at Michael's on Perryville with owner, Michael Verace
112. 1999 - The Rockford Room at Giovanni's listing seven artists including Deborah Newton 'Places We Fly' original acrylic painting on canvas
113. 2000 - January 7 Register Star newspaper article 'Downtown exhibition honors local arts families' indicating show features work by husband-and-wife teams Joseph Zimmer and Deborah Newton and three other paired family members
114. 2000 - Press release from Deborah to Julie Snively at Register Star indicating four of her large paintings have been placed permanently as memorial gifts on campus of Highland Community College in Freeport Illinois by its foundation 'Womanstories - Renewal', 'The Healing Series - Applewalk', 'Spirit Vine - Glory', and 'Spirit Vine 'Bacchanalia' and summarizes her many awards and indicating more than 1100 paintings in public and private collections
115. 2000 - October 7 Register Star Life & Style section newspaper article 'If you like it, even when others don't, buy it! Let art touch you' in which Deborah is quoted 'You don't have to dress up (do so if you want to) and you don't have to buy anything. You might go to openings for a year before you see something that works for you'
116. 2000 - October 6 Register Star go section newspaper article 'our picks for the best things to do this weekend in the Rockford Area' includes color image of 'Love cannot Be contained' by Deborah Newton
117. 2001 - November 17 Rockford Art Museum The History of Art in Rockford card - exhibit included 'The Desert Intriques Me' by Deborah Newton on loan from the collection of Sam and Carol Darby
118. 2001 - Who's Who summary written by Deborah for Bethesda Covenant Church monthly 'Beacon' newsletter about her membership since age four when she walked a few blocks there, through Sunday school, confirmation, high league, mother, new revelations, honeyrock, death of her parents and end of her first marriage. Then remarried, living downtown, full time artist, landlord, director of gallery. Projects, travel, children, and grandchildren visits, need for recluse/regroup, survival of several bouts of serious illness and knowledge that prayers, care and support of leaders and friends in the community of believers at Bethesda is good and mighty
119. 2001 - March 25 Register Star article by Judy Emerson 'Mayor hopefuls can learn from artists' visions about 2020 Visions show at the Rockford Art Museum where Judy writes 'as I sat through the debate, I found myself wishing between yawns that some of the inspiration and creativity evidenced in artists in the show would spring forth from the candidates' lips...I liked Deborah Newton's large painting 'Ova Nova (Latin: New Eggs)...The Sky is Not Falling' which features a cluster of egg shapes in vivid pastel blends
120. 2001 - Spring Rockford Art Museum members' magazine including article 'Reflections in Hope Breast Cancer Awareness in Art' of 25 artists in the Kuller Gallery including the evocative abstractions of Deborah Newton
121. 2001 - August 31 Register Star newspaper article by Julie Snively 'Newton Art showcased' indicating two large painting photo spread in summer issue of Chicago Home and Garden magazine
122. 2001 - October 5 Rockford College Art Gallery presents Ghostly Creations, Dark Inspirations regional invitational exhibition including Deborah NEWTON at the Clark Arts Center Gallery
123. 2002 - February 23 Register Star newspaper article in At Home section by Geri Nicolai including two photos in living/kitchen area of Deborah Newton 4000 ft2 home where desire for cool, fun, convenient and different is what appeals to reside in downtown as a neighborhood
124. 2002 - June 8 card from Dorothy and Barbara thanking Deborah for 'starring' on our afternoon panel for the 'Business of Art'. Your life and work are one of Rockford's great lights
125. 2003 - February 21 Register Star newspaper article 'violins for the eyes, not the ears' premiere to be at 317 Market Street Gallery of 13 one-of-a-kind pieces show titled 'Music for the Eyes' as Rockford Symphony Orchestra fundraising auction to support youth programs. They will travel to other locations before auction/sale night on May 18. Deborah Newton was one of the artists that contributed
126. 2003 - February 10 Register Star Business Monday newspaper insert with Deborah Newton original acrylic paintings noted as hanging in Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White's office and within entrance/concourse at Swedish American Hospital
127. 2003 - Spring Rockford Art Museum members' magazine 'Points of View: Women Artists of the Permanent Collection' of 150 artists in the Anderson Gallery including color image of 'Red on the Roof I' acrylic on canvas by Deborah Newton
128. 2003 - writing by Deborah 'KEGONSA every summer at the lake.....in room sized bed..on sunbathed pier....the lapping waves.....filled me'
129. 2003 - writing by Deborah 'I am an artist seduced by my senses. What I see and feel is put on canvas in color....to elevate everydayness to a simple form of love. My fascination these days is with long views.....ordinary terrain seen as glorious surprise.....and gratitude. My current work concerns landscape, near and far.....painted in abstract yet celebrative style'. It notes 2004 will be the 20th season for 317 with 6500 invitations sent per opening. Purchased in 1985 and totally remodeled on 3 floors - the work is a private venture for each tenant artist/creative professional and the guest gallery is a 501(c)3 where building is not a retail store or dealership, rather open studios
130. 2004 - June 9 Rock River Times Vibe section newspaper article by Susan Webb Tregay regarding a summer show at Eau Gallery in Rockton featuring more than 50 artists....'Love tulips? Deborah Newton gives the illusion of peach tulips in her 'Rapture in Bloom' Taking the 1950's technical inspiration of Helen Frankenthaler, Newton has adapted her great washes of color on unprimed canvas to her own refreshing, personal style. Images weave in and out of the canvas, never fully disclosing themselves, yet tantalizing the viewer'
131. 2005 - Rockford Health System Rockford Memorial Development Foundation wish book 'The Art of healing' includes image of 'Sweet Life' painting by Deborah Newton a gift of the Rockford Health System Auxiliary
132. 2005 - June 14 Promega (in Madison, WI) Summer Art showcase of four women including Deborah Newton lasting through September 14
133. 2006 - April 27 Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. expansion open house including listing of original artwork by eight artists including 'Dancing Earth' as stairs in front of lobby atrium by Deborah Newton
134. 2007 - March 26 Register Star listing of Winnebago County top 10 real estate transactions with 317 Market Street listed as 2nd at \$420,000 Deborah Newton as trustee to Bodett-Las-Casas Properties, Inc.
135. 2009 - March 22 Register Star cover page article 'Transformation needs patience' about Tax increment financing districts with photo of Deborah within and exterior of 130 N. 2nd Street which she and Joseph Zimmer turned into their studio/home Akti. Description of building, Deborah quoted 'I paint what I feel, Not what I see' and that \$10,000 was reimbursed to help pay for exterior facade renovations after they were complete and paid for after approval of the design by the City's appointed design review committee members
136. October 8 card from Jan and Ron Pauly thanking Deborah for 'Drifting in the Sky' as making them think of Mike (their son) enjoying his afterlife. 'You are a blessing to us Deborah'. Mike Pauly's obituary enclosed. Mike was a landscape Architect employed by the Rockford Park District (co-employee of Joe) who selected/located most of the initial landscaping plants at Akti
137. 2010 - Register Star newspaper clipping with photo of Sherri Dorr and Marco Basurto attending Fall Art Scene in front of a Deborah Newton painting in her studio at 130 N. 2nd Street
138. 2013 - Fall Rockford Art Museum newsletter with article on 'The Holt Award' - the purchase award was annual from 1992 to 2000. The awards were presented by the Board President, Executive Director and Curator incorporated into the annual meeting each February. Deborah was the first of nine recipients.