

# Sharon Butler

## Biography

Sharon L. Butler has received several grants and awards, including a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant, Connecticut Artist fellowship, Blue Mountain Center Artists' fellowship, Vermont Studio Center residency grant, a Red Cinder Creativity Center residency, and two Connecticut State University research grants. Since 2000, she has been a faculty member in the Department of Visual Arts at Eastern Connecticut State University. Her work is included in private collections in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Baltimore, Tampa, Philadelphia, Providence, London and Kyoto. Butler maintains the art blog *Two Coats of Paint*, and is a Contributing Writer for the art journal *The Brooklyn Rail*.

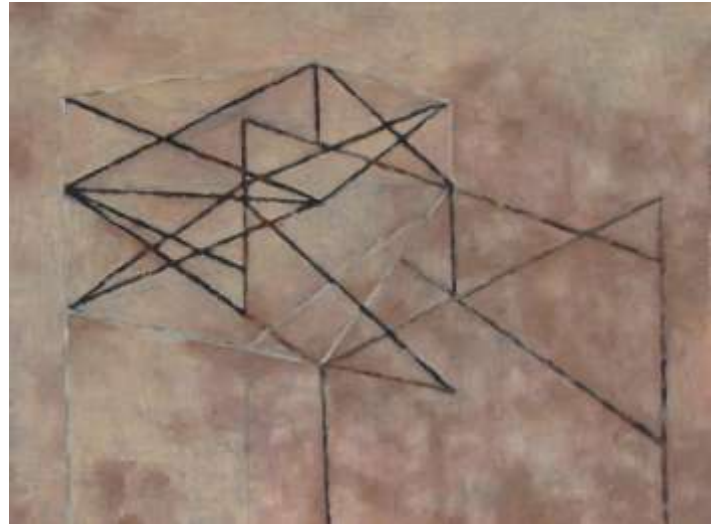
## Statement

### Keeping Our Distance

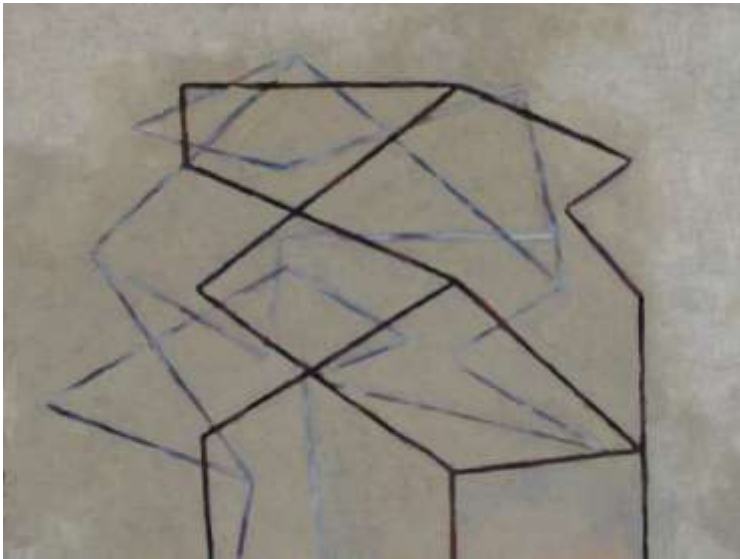
Privately-owned solitary towers have been features of the landscape since the 1800s, when wealthy German aristocrats began building them on their property. By the mid-19th century ordinary citizens were constructing towers for tourism. During World War II, the Army erected concrete observation towers in Delaware for spotting German U-Boats. With the invention of the elevator, tower heights increased. Today, the Toronto's CN Tower is the world's tallest, at 1,815 feet.

My penchant is for smaller, unadvertised, local observation towers used to spot fires, watch nature, protect territory, and perhaps provide modest entertainment for visitors. These towers, made of wood or welded metal lattice, usually have a platform surrounded by a railing or partial enclosure. To get a new perspective on the world, we make the exhausting scramble to the top up noisy metal stairs, ladders, or rickety spiral staircases. By the time we get to the platform, we're panting, out of breath. We look out over the land and listen to the wind as our pulses slow.

Positioned above the tree line, the towers are distinctive features of the regional landscape, and can be seen from almost everywhere in the community. From a distance, however, we ourselves are indistinct as we stare from the platform, nearly invisible to people down below. If they can see us at all, they certainly can't tell who we are. By climbing the tower and distancing ourselves from the throb of life below, paradoxically we feel as though we might be able to get a closer look. To some of us, that's a keener vantage point than the heart of things.



Sharon Butler, Untitled 10, Tower Series, 2007, Oil on canvasboard, 18" x 24"



Sharon Butler, *Untitled 8, Tower Series*, 2007, Oil on canvasboard, 18" x 24"

## Resume

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2006 "Sharon L. Butler: Quotidian Analytics," Alexy Von Schlippe Gallery of Art, University of Connecticut, Avery Point, CT
- 2005 "*Moby Dick, Used*," installation project, New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, MA
- 2003 "Dickathon," animated projection created by Sharon L. Butler and Writers' Archive, Edge Festival (in conjunction with the International Festival of Arts & Ideas), New Haven, CT
- 2001 "Sharon L. Butler: Fontainebleau," Lenore Gray Gallery, Providence, RI
- 2000 "Project Room: Sharon L. Butler," Central Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 1999 "Sharon L. Butler: Natural Fiction," Lenore Gray Gallery, Providence, RI
- 1998 "Sharon L. Butler: Pure Pigment Fiction," Grand Central, Tampa, FL
- 1997 "Sharon L. Butler: New Work," Central Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 1996 "Sharon L. Butler," Central Fine Arts, New York, NY

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2008 "Habitat for Artists," curated by Simon Draper, Spire Studios, Beacon, NY.
- "Ides of March, curated by Peggy Cyphers and Chris Twomey, ABC No Rio, New York, NY.
- 2007 "The Blogger Show," DiggingPitt Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA, and Agni Gallery, New York, NY.
- "Cultural Identity," National Academy of Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria
- 2006 "All Systems Go," Pierogi 2000, Brooklyn, NY
- 2005 "Building for the Future," New Britain Art Museum, New Britain, CT.
- 2003 "Like Life: Projects by David Lloyd Brown, Sharon L. Butler, Jessica Schwind, Joseph Smolinski and Andrea Wollensak," Hygienic Art, New London, CT.
- 2002 "Sense/Language," Akus Gallery, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT
- "Salon," Grand Central Gallery, Boston, MA
- "Summer Invitational," Museum Editions, New York, NY
- 2001 "Boston International Fine Art Exhibition," Grand Central Gallery, Boston, MA
- "Millennium: New Gifts and Acquisitions," William Benton Museum of Art, Storrs, CT
- 1998 "Summer Invitational," Snyderman Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- "The Biennial at Ben Shahn Galleries: Lines of Direction," Wm Patterson University, Wayne, NJ
- 1997 "Current Undercurrent: Working in Brooklyn," The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
- 1996 "Work on Paper from Pierogi 2000," (Alternative) Alternative Art Fair, New York, NY
- 1995 "Pages," 450 Broadway Gallery, New York, NY
- "5 Artists," 450 Broadway Gallery, New York, NY
- "On the Street Where You Live," Weber State University, Ogden, UT
- 1994 "Jobs Overseas: Four Walls in Germany," Munchen Kunstzerein, Munich, Germany

## Articles / Writing

- "Meeting Imi and Blinky at Dia:Beacon," Sharon L. Butler, *The Brooklyn Rail*, July/August 2008  
"Lost in Space: Art Post-Studio," Sharon L. Butler, *The Brooklyn Rail*, June 2008  
"Abt's Traction," Sharon L. Butler, *The Brooklyn Rail*, May 2008.  
"America's Lessness," Sharon L. Butler, *The Brooklyn Rail*, April 2008.  
"Tracking Loren MacIver," Sharon L. Butler, *The Brooklyn Rail*, March 2008.  
"Miami Beach: Swimming in Pigment," Sharon L. Butler, *The Brooklyn Rail*, February 2008.  
"Richard Prince and the American Girl," Sharon L. Butler, *The Brooklyn Rail*, December 2007.  
"The Super-sizing of American Art Museums," *The American Prospect*, November 2007.  
"Artists Retreat," *The Brooklyn Rail*, Sharon L. Butler, October 2007, p.43.  
"Arts and Minds," *The American Prospect*, Sharon L. Butler, October 2007, p.55.

## Awards / Fellowships / Residencies

- 2006 Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism: Artists Fellowship  
Connecticut State University: Research Grant  
2004 Red Cinder Creativity Center, Na'alehu, Hawai'i: Artist's Residency  
Eastern Connecticut State University: Faculty Development Grant  
2002 Connecticut State University: Research Grant  
1997 Blue Mountain Center Artists and Writers Colony: Fellowship  
1990-91 University of Connecticut: Graduate Assistantship  
1988 Vermont Studio Center: Work Study Grant  
1989-90 Pollock-Krasner Foundation: Grant Recipient

## Reviews / Essays

- Regina Hackett, "Blog Roll, No Jelly on The Side," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, January, 2008.  
Amy Goetzman, "40 Bloggers Over 40," ReZoom, November 2007.  
Charlie Finch, "Not-So-Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy," Artnet, October, 2007.  
Edward Winkleman, "The Blogger Show," Edward Winkleman blogsite (<http://edwardwinkleman.blogspot.com>), October 17, 2007.  
Elizabeth Schultz, "Creating Icons: Melville in Visual Media and Popular Culture," *A Companion to Melville*, ed. Wyn Kelley (Cambridge: Blackwell Publishing, forthcoming).  
"The Seafaring Metaphor," Marion M. Callis, edited by Jonathan Stevenson, essay for 'Moby Dick, Used' at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford MA, 2005.  
"Like Life: Projects by David Lloyd Brown, Sharon Butler, Jessica Schwind, Joseph Smolinski and Andrea Wollensak," Marion M. Callis, catalogue essay, Hygienic Art Galleries, New London, CT, 2003.  
"Pure Pigment Fiction: The Paintings of Sharon L. Butler," Dion Kliner, essay, Grand Central Gallery, Tampa, Florida, 1998.  
"Sharon Butler: Picture This," Wolf-Dieter Stoffelmeier, Central Fine Arts Gallery, exhibition essay, 1997.  
"The Real, the Imagined and the Imagining in the work of Sharon L. Butler," Dominique Nahas, catalogue essay, Central Fine Arts, New York, 1997.  
"Words & Images from the Artists," essay, Ben Shahn Galleries at Wm. Patterson University, 1997.  
"In Kent: 2 Galleries, 3 Sites, 4 Shows," Vivian Raynor, *The New York Times*, Aug.8, 1993.

## Education

- 1994 University of Connecticut, Storrs, MFA, art  
1987 Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, BFA, painting, with honors  
1981 Tufts University, Medford, MA; BA, art history

## Teaching

- 2005- Associate Professor, Department of Visual Arts, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT  
2000-05 Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Arts, Eastern Connecticut State University  
1998-00 Assistant Professor, Visual Communications, State University of New York, Farmingdale, NY