



{stylemaker}

Linda Rodney

by Megan Swoyer

photography by Glenn Triest

The art of blending: In her home studio, Linda Rodney sports a Chanel shirt, casual corduroy jacket, Bogner jeans and Manolo Blahnik shoes.

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Things That Enrich Her Life

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Her children. Rodney has two sons: Douglas is a junior who plays lacrosse at Detroit Country Day School. Teddy attends Denison University in Ohio.

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Heritage. Both sets of Rodney's grandparents were immigrants from Milan, Italy, and Krakow, Poland.

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World travel. Rodney is very selective about her favorite sites. "Krakow is fabulous. It has the best streets. The roads are old, the whole place is authentic. Kanonicza Street is like none other in the world."



Bears. "Bears are particularly strong yet gentle, physically attractive, and show a sensitivity not inconsistent with masculinity. I named my oldest son Teddy." The bear sculpture shown here is by Eric Thorsen. "I use it to guide me in painting."

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Artists. John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase and Claude Monet are favorites, as well as contemporary artist Howard Terpning.



Books. "Blink" by Malcolm Gladwell. "Gladwell shows that one's thoughts do in fact influence and or become one's reality." Also, "I am Charlotte Simmons" by Tom Wolfe, "Poland" by James Michener, and "A Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

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Style. "I like to mix designers to create my own style. I'll put something from Target together with Chanel, Ferragamo, Hermes..."

The artist in Linda Rodney is running full tilt these days. Just wander around her Bloomfield Hills home and you'll see evidence of a woman who's listening to her inner voice. Rodney, who grew up in East Pointe and practiced law for several years before scaling back her career to focus on raising her two sons, is honing her photography and painting skills.

"I would take both law and art in college (University of Toledo, College of Law and University of Michigan) and was unsure about what I wanted to do," she recalls. So she did both. The law was yesterday. And now it's all about film, canvases, oil paint, travel, gallery visits, photography classes in Italy, promotions and other things that keep an artist hopping.

At home, you'll see her works hanging in the living room or dining room, along the corridors and stacked in a second-floor studio. Her creations also grace the homes of several area residents. Rodney's work combines the best of two mediums: photography and oil painting. After photographing what touches her soul (animals and architecture, for the most part), she transfers images to canvas and then enhances the images with paint. Orange may be added to a sunset, a tinge of sienna to a grizzly bear's face, a tad of purple amid some rocks where herons and pelicans land ... "Maybe I will enhance something and maybe not," says the perceptive artist, who looks as elegant in her painting attire as she does in a Chanel suit and heels.

Under the umbrella of Caught By Camera (her company name), Rodney's works have been shown at the Whistling Moose in Harbor Springs, Cottage Collections in Glen Arbor and other galleries (for information on a special June 15-17 show, contact Rodney through homepage.mac.com/lkrodney). She also was juried into Our Town 2005, a statewide competition held at Birmingham's Community House. "I started doing this for myself. But then friends saw my works and said, 'You should take this seriously.'"

Hair and make-up by Jon Lieckfelt and Wendy Charest of Figo in Birmingham.