

Laura Pollak

PSA, PSWC, PSNC, SPS, IAPS MC



Who: Laura was born to holocaust survivors in Detroit MI. Her grandmother was an opera singer before the war and the arts are in her blood. She studied, music, dance and of course art from a young age.

'I can remember the greatest gift my parents gave me at the age of 4 was the Crayola Crayon set of 72 colors! I have been enthralled with color ever since. I'm fascinated with light and shadow patterns. I try to imbue all my paintings [whether abstract or representational] with a source of light to make them glow from within.'

What: A Sense of Space'. I try to create a place of depth to enter into... an emotional space to explore. I often visualize an emotion. Then dig deep and get drawn in. My art is an invitation to join me on a journey and experience visual joy.

I've always seen things others do not. I imagine, rearrange, and make new combinations of common items in a new relationship. Fearless experimentation and exploration lead me to always asking 'what if?'. I often see what's not there!

Why: Often people ask me how do I 'dream up my pieces?' since they are so unique and often other worldly. A few years ago, I heard a term called Synesthesia. The definition is: 'a name for when you experience one of your senses through another'. I hear music and then see colors. Tuesday is yellow... go figure. But I really do see things differently.

Light and shadow ignite my vision. [gray days just don't do it for me!] Sometimes, it's just what is there in front of me and other times it's a new combination of those items. I might reverse the light to make what is light dark and what is light glow from within.

I call that Planting Lightbulbs! My philosophy is that abstract art is like a good work of fiction: The artist brings some reality along with a healthy dose of imagination and then allows the viewer to engage in the experience by finishing the story.

Which: I've settled into a style of Abstract

Realism. I don't relate to abstract expressionism, where there is paint splattered on a canvas [not that I don't respect it but I simply do not have an emotional response to it.] Instead, I bring pieces of the recognizable, add imagination and rearrange them in a new form, with unique colors and a deeper meaning. I love to add some unexpected surprises to a painting so there's always more to explore and discover. I never want to be predictable!

How: My subject matter is stimulated by the world around me. Geology, natural land formations, the facets of jewels that have formed deep in the earth under immense pressure, and on the other extreme, astronomical visions like those brought forth from the James Webb Telescope. These layers of the universe, all enthral me.

As I plan each painting, I make decisions as to the emotional outcome I'm trying to achieve. Will it be a quiet calm painting [usually not in my repertoire] or will it be full of intrigue and excitement.

I examine the angles of the composition. I'm often looking for drama to create strong movement through the painting. Favorite tools are Value and Contrast. It's how I achieve the GLOW that I have become know for!

Pastel is my Medium of Choice is. It is PURE COLOR and the vibrancy and immediacy is better than any other 'paint' out there. While it may seem like drawing, Pastels are paints. They are the same medium as oil paint just with out the binder and liquids to make them fluid or yellow with time.

In one painting called Deep Dark Secrets, I was exploring how we bury certain thoughts and emotions so far under the surface it is barely seen. However, they will still burn bright in our hearts and emerge somehow and some way!

As a Patron of the Arts, I hope you'll allow yourself to be drawn in and explore the scenes before you. See the joy in pure colors, find the hidden surprises and let your emotions emerge. Always feel free to contact me with questions! I love the dialogue of Art!

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