

LAURA BRAINARD RABORN

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Artist Statement

I am currently developing two bodies of work. Initially appearing quite different from each other, similarities emerge between the two groups.

The representational group, which are oil paintings, evokes ideas of place and being absolutely present in our environments. I aim to capture the idea that each moment is fleeting, each gesture precious, and each interaction is poignant.

The second group combines drawing with handmade stencil layers. The hard edges of the stencils contrast the drawn lines which creates a strange allure, encouraging us to think about what we are seeing. A conch shell is not just an object reminding us of a place, but it also serves as a home for a living creature and is beautifully designed by nature. When we lean in and consider what we are seeing, miracles abound.

By looking closely at our surroundings, whether we are temporary visitors or lifelong residents, we can deepen our understanding and appreciation for a place. I hope the paintings enable viewers to experience what I do as an artist: looking closely and feeling a swell of gratitude for the exquisite beauty in the world as well as the seemingly mundane parts of living.

Artist Biography



Laura Raborn's paintings have been exhibited in Arkansas, the U.S. and the Bahamas and are in numerous collections including recent acquisitions by the CARTI Collection, the Arkansas Children's Hospital and the Bill and Hillary Clinton private collection.

As a child, Laura visited Harbour Island often with her family. While the pink sands and crystal blue water were a constant source of delight, she and her little brother explored, playing with puppies, chickens, shells, coconuts, fishing buoys, a horse named Francis and the cats at Angela's. They examined the patterns on starfish backs, flower petals, the ruins of a burned palatial home, the old air strip, scales of fish, and headstones in graveyards. It was these places and things that started appearing in her art journals and paintings as a girl...and never ceased. After a hiatus, she now returns to Harbour Island with her family and children. She is constantly looking, drawing, photographing and talking with people on a ceaseless journey of learning about a place that is not her own, but that rarely leaves her thoughts or her art studio.

Laura's studio in Little Rock is open for appointments and her paintings can be viewed at www.laurarabornart.com or by visiting Cantrell Gallery in Arkansas, Justus Fine Art in Arkansas and Princess Street Gallery on Harbour Island.