



# White Rock Gallery

FINE ART SINCE 1989



## LAURA HARRIS

### On Canvas

"Fat flowers lean shyly into one another, giddy with connection. Fevered skies swell above landscapes stripped of memory. Last blossoms bend with the reluctance of autumn, and mornings emerge with the coolness of a sigh... of waiting.

Playful or pensive, Laura's sense of motion is intoxicating. Questions fall and shine like teardrops. Fragile with hope, light rises like a promise. You want to follow it... somewhere turbulent and lyrical, elegant with chaos. Its somewhere you know, but have never seen before. Delicate tracteries point the way. Exuberant, sensual, and often surprising, Laura's images are known and prized for their irresistible energy..." written by Lisa Leighton.

### Biography

***"I feel like I've finally found my place, and it's here on the canvas. Here I soar."***

Described as 'beautifully imperfect' Laura's paintings speak to an inner voice often ignored – with strikingly bold colours and texture, each one takes you on a journey that requires contemplation and offers discovery. Mostly self-taught, Laura began painting in her teens. With her draftsman father teaching her perspective and technique, he also encouraged freedom of expression. Before becoming a 'serious' painter, Harris had a small graphic design company that specialized in corporate identity. In 2001, her successful business gave way to her full time art career. It is a very exciting time for Laura – with a run of successful shows and critical acclaim, she is continuing her journey with a strong sense of play, and refreshing confidence and flare.

***"The work keeps getting deeper, more honest. I continue to work on a piece until I feel it breathe on its own."***

### Statement

Fueled by good coffee and the music of Ray Lamontagne, Angus and Julia, Ben Harper and Dylan, my mornings are spent in my 8 x 12ft studio. When people ask me for a tour of my studio, I have to laugh... it's small but I couldn't ask for more. There's paint on the walls, the ceiling, on the curtains and rug, and I love that no one has asked me to clean it up. Music loud, I can't help but wiggle a bit and I think that movement finds its way into the paintings... I can see it in the strokes. I trust the mistakes and feel that a successful painting is one that conveys my emotion.

A lot of my work has a 'big sky' feel to it. While creating these, I am generally aware of a lost connection between people. We live in a world where cell phones and blackberries are often getting more affection than our family and friends.



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I fear that a loss of intimacy and connection is growing. The splatters of paint represent people or souls, rising from the ground up into the horizon... open and searching, connecting, together. The black represents the chaos of daily life, and the brightness represents hope, calm, and the inner peace I feel when I stop... like when I watch my daughter beachcombing and for that moment, there's nothing else in the whole world.

*"Wonderful things can happen if you put your brush down and let your painting be your teacher." (Charles Reid)*

My art is shaped by how I view the world. I do not believe that there is a state of grace in life. Life is life - it is dynamic and it is always a struggle. Integrity, awareness and dignity remain constants. These are elements in life that are unchanging and real that can be spent or thrown away. For me this is the mystic and beauty of life and the underlying subject matter of all my work.

The dramas are entirely fictitious but very real. Passions and dreams and stress really describe reality better than physical descriptions of objects.

I said in an earlier artist statement that truth is an orphan waiting to be named - once named it becomes a lie. While this may not stand up as a metaphor I do believe it has some validity. A piece of art is a symbol that as rendered by the artist in the act of creation and has it's own unique meaning. It can have all the nuances, history, contradictions and flavours that a word can have when used. It is complete in itself. To over explain is like having to explain a joke - the spirit of the thing is gone.

Good art is narrative, (fighting words for some I know), where the outcome is indeterminate. It is not the job of an artist to tell people what to think, it is to see truth and to depict it.

The artist is a mystic, "a bell weather", a shaman, and the guy with the measuring tape mapping out the jail cell. The artist's viewpoint is vital to our greater sanity.