

PHILIP MORTON GALLERY

Meet The Artist: LAURA HICKMAN

Laura Hickman was born in Milford, Delaware and grew up in various houses on Fifth Street in Bethany Beach, Delaware. She was profoundly influenced by her life at the beach, which is evident in her later artwork from the town and area.

Laura attended the local public schools, and then attended Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, graduating with a B.A. in Art. During her Junior year, she was fortunate to attend a studies abroad program with Trinity College (Connecticut) in Rome, Italy. This was a major influence in her life, which again, showed up later in her works from Italy

Laura attended graduate school and received an M.F.A. from the University of Delaware in Printmaking and Painting and Drawing. She taught for several years at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and then at The Savannah College of Art and Design. Her hometown beckoned for her return in 1988, when she realized her dream of becoming a full-time artist.

Working on paper that she paints black, she has created over a thousand pastel drawings based on her environment. She prefers to be a studio artist, so she works from thousands of photographs that she has collected over the years from her beloved hometown and her travels in Italy. Her works have been bought by private collectors and many corporate collections, and she has shown her work in galleries up and down the East Coast and in Germany. She has won numerous awards and was bestowed with the prestigious Outstanding Alumnae Award from the University of Delaware and the Arts and Humanities Award from Delaware Technical and Community College.

Now with Laura's new Gallery and studio, she is happy to be recording the world around her, knowing that it has become a documentation of the changes that are happening to her hometown. Her work has always been about the places she loves and will continue to be collected by those who appreciate those places as well.

"I like to think of my pastels and oils as "lightsapes". They are about real places during a certain time and season of light. They are all places that I have experienced and documented with a photograph. Since I am a studio artist, I then "recreate" the place in its lighted conditions. Whereas the photograph I work from is a moment frozen in time, my artwork becomes for me the chance to relive the place, and offer enough information that may prompt collective or universal responses from the viewer that surpass a moment frozen in time. The absence of cars and people is intentional. I wish the viewer to inhabit the space as I did while creating it. Instead of being a narrative about a figure occupying the space, it becomes a place to hear the birds above, smell the dirt and ozone, and feel the warmth of the sun. In the end, I hope that the experience of my artwork is as comfortable for the viewer as it was for me to create." ... Laura Hickman