

LAURA PEREIRA: 2023 EMERGING ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT

Laura Pereira is a contemporary mixed media artist, encaustic painter, and arts & museum educator. Working with people of all ages to find connection and meaning through making art has been a focus throughout her career.

Drawing on experiences and photographs taken in both urban and natural environments, Laura's work examines the symbiotic relationship between perception and experience, how knowledge is created, and human conceptions of the environments in which they live.

Laura plans on using the grant to purchase supplies needed to complete a series of paintings currently in progress for an exhibition entitled "Analogical". This exhibit will consist of approximately twenty encaustic paintings that are amalgamations of similar patterns – patterns that draw associations between seemingly disparate bits of nature. The exhibition is anchored in research on how metaphor and analogy help expand human capacity for artistic, philosophical, and scientific thought, and will be a visual exploration of the relationship between perception and knowledge creation.



To accompany the exhibition, Laura plans on producing an interactive gallery game in the form of both a web app and printed cards that can be used by visitors to the exhibition. This will allow viewers to construct their own configurations of the artwork that afford new visual associations between them. Images can be rotated and rearranged in a format similar to a sliding puzzle, but with no set solution, connecting lines, textures, and colors in a multitude of ways. As the artwork is rearranged, different elements become the visual focus, allowing viewers to see them differently with each arrangement. She writes: *"The purpose of this game is twofold: to provide an engaging way to help viewers better understand the thoughts behind the work, and to encourage alternative ways to interact, perceive and experience works of art and one's own environment. There is no right way to view the images; there are, instead, an infinite number of possibilities that people create for themselves."*

To see more of Laura's work: Go to: www.laurapereira.com
Instagram: @laurieblue22