

# LAURA THORNE

My approach to painting and materials has shifted over the last five years. It's become more intimate as I study plants and birds in our tiny backyard urban sanctuary and other nearby refuges. A few years ago, we remodeled our house to bring my studio home without disturbing the garden. Now, instead of rushing through the city to get to work, I take a walk through the neighborhood. Returning to the garden, I sit between the arbutus and the serviceberry and watch what happens in the habitat we've cultivated for over 25 years. A delicate, interdependent complexity emerges between us, as I notice that my presence is felt by the flora and fauna and I attune to their aliveness within me.

I use oil sticks whose edges mutate, blend, break apart, coalesce, weave and interpenetrate in gestural bands of color. With painting, unfettered from concepts, I'm free to explore what it feels like to be conscious of outer and inner landscapes and to express these as embodied rhythms. My shapes may be seen as organic forms or read as abstract geometric repetition, or both. Using patterns in a soft grid, I see/feel into and through the work, bypassing words, reaching for unfamiliar and unexpected liaisons as the process asserts an imperative to mutiny. My strategies are often eclipsed by the painting as it dives towards mystery and makes a new kind of sense of the world.

## EDUCATION - 1985

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting, Cum Laude, University of Washington; Seattle, Washington  
Bachelor of Arts, General Art, Cum Laude, University of Washington; Seattle, Washington  
Bachelor of Arts, English, Cum Laude, University of Washington; Seattle, Washington

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle  
Seattle Print Arts  
Artist Trust, Washington  
2006 Artist Trust EDGE Professional Development Program

## RESIDENCY

2003 Featured Artist, Paint Ellensburg, Gallery One, Ellensburg, Washington

## SELECT EXHIBITIONS

2025 Reverie, SAM Gallery, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington  
2023 Fiftieth Anniversary of SAM Gallery, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington  
2022 Brighter Days, with Laura Thorne, Joe Max Emminger, Carolyn Cole and Karen Cornell  
2020 Northwest Abstractions, with Alfred Harris, Anna Macrae, Cathy Sarkowsky and Laura Thorne, SAM Gallery, Seattle, Washington  
2018 I Am Nature, Plasteel Frames and Gallery, Seattle Washington  
2017 *Panoramic Present*, SAM Gallery, Seattle, Washington  
2016 *SAM Gallery Presents: Laura Thorne*, SAM Gallery, Seattle, Washington  
2012 *Irregular Symmetry*, Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, Washington  
2011 *An Introduction: Finding Form*, Francine Seders Gallery, Upstairs Gallery, Seattle, Washington  
2007 *Within*, Monoprints, University Inn, Seattle, Washington

2004 *El Sueño del Mar*, Monoprints, Exposure Gallery, Gadbois Art and Photography at BallardWorks, Seattle, Washington  
1989 *Body Portraits*, Drawings and Monoprints, Marcia Gordon Gallery, Seattle, Washington  
1987 *Selected Artist, Laura Thorne*, King County Arts Commission Gallery Program, Seattle, Washington

### **COLLECTIONS**

Swedish Hospital

Bailey Boushay House, Seattle Washington

Various Private collections



**SEATTLE ART MUSEUM - SAM Gallery**  
**1300 FIRST AVE SEATTLE, WA 98101**  
**206-343-1101**