

LAURA ANNIS



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LEFT: A GLIMPSE OF LAURA AT WORK IN HER BEAUTIFUL STUDIO THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND BUILT!

Just the Facts! Laura Annis - [Laura Annis](#) - Baraboo

Artist medium: Acrylic painting on wood panel, welded metal frames

Primary method of working: I create dimensional paintings inspired by folklore and mythology.

Favorite surface/technique treatment: Hand cut wood panel

painted and laminated together to create multidimensional paintings.

Equipment used: Scroll saw, MIG welder, Nova color paint

Favorite tools: Dewalt 20" scroll saw, Hobart 140 MIG welder

Studio playlist/music/podcasts: I love listening to podcasts while painting. I'm currently into The Daily, Unlocking Us, WTF, and the Tim Ferris Show. I tend to listen to music more while using loud power tools and have a very eclectic taste. You would hear anything from Fleetwood Mac, John Prine, Rolling Stones, to Yeah Yeah Yeahs, X, Lizzo, or Missy Elliot.



SUMMER PAINTING OUTDOORS



WORKING ON A MURAL



CLUBHOUSE STUDIO

Artist Conversation!

Let's Learn a Little More...

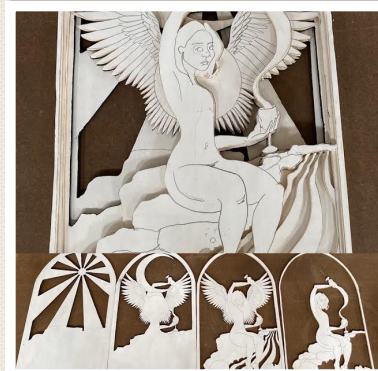
Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you came to be living life the you are today?

I left a rural Wisconsin town for Columbia College Chicago to pursue my interest in the arts. I studied fine art and animation while falling in love with living in a large city. I worked as a bicycle messenger to put myself through college which gave endless opportunity to take in the amazing architecture and art throughout Chicago. I was given the chance to intern at a spectacle theater company, Redmoon Theater, which changed the course of my professional life. I was employed at Redmoon where I learned to weld, build sets, and scenic paint which gave me the skill set to work in theater for the next decade. While working in build shops by day, I would work on my paintings at night and had many successful exhibitions throughout the city. I wanted to focus more on my work and did an artist residency at the Wormfarm Institute in 2011. Through this experience I fell in love with Sauk County and relocated here to create space to

pursue my art. Living here has afforded me a nice balance of studio work and mural jobs to allow me to be a full time artist.

How do you keep things fresh and your mind engaged?

Up until my 40th birthday I always had a part time job to balance out my income. Side work would range from residential painting to working on vegetable and herb farms. The past three years I have been able to full time make a living from art alone. During the spring and summer months I do a fair amount of mural work leaving the colder months to focus time in the studio. I find this balance works well for me and am grateful I am able to be creative full time. Being self employed can have its scheduling challenges but I find that breaking down the calendar week by week helps me stay on top of my projects. I try to leave the weekends free to spend time with my husband and friends where we enjoy spending as much time outdoors as possible. We love camping and are actually planning on building our own teardrop camper this winter in the studio!



PROCESS OF SCROLL CUT LAYERS BEFORE PAINT



THE FINISHED PIECE "TEMPERANCE"



MEMENTO MORI



WORK INSPIRED BY FOLK LORE AND NATURE

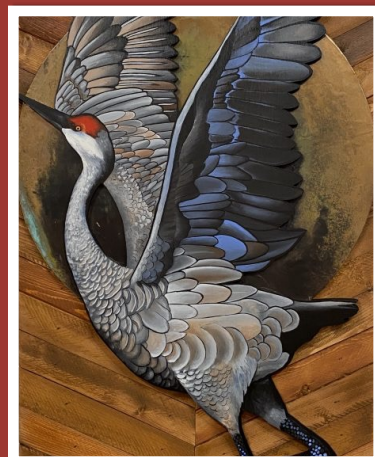
RIGHT: "TIN ROOF DAIRY MURAL" THIS FUN MURAL SHOWCASES BARABOO'S MOST WIDELY KNOWN LEGACY, THE CIRCUS. LAURA DESIGNED & PAINTED THIS MURAL FOR A DOWNTOWN 1940'S THEMED ICE CREAM PARLOR.



THE CRANE WIFE



DRYAD



WHOOPING CRANE

Please tell us a little bit about your Studio?

My husband and I built our studio with the help of many friends in 2015. We refer to it as the room of requirement as it is an open 18'x 30' space that can meet the needs of any project we take on. None of the work stations are really permanently fixed so the space can accommodate painting a 25' mural or building a custom copper top bar. We find that having flexibility in a space allows for more possibilities of projects. I do have one stationary work bench that houses my scroll saw which I use on a regular basis for my studio work.

Where do you find your inspiration?

My work is heavily inspired by mythology and folklore specifically through the writing of Joesph Campbell and his idea of the monomyth. These narratives cross cultural and language divides through shared archetypes and storylines that inspire me to reinterpret them in my aesthetic. Some of my stylistic inspiration is from Hayao Miyazaki animation, Edward Gorey illustration, Alphonse Mucha paintings, and Swoon street art. I find it freeing to reject realism and create imagery more from my minds eye developing an aesthetic that is uniquely my own.

Where can we find your work and learn more?

The primary platform I market my work on is social media. Instagram is a great free resource I find accessible and wide ranging to expand my reach beyond my local audience. Give me a [follow](#) to see process shots of what I'm working on and a lot of nature! Besides the Fall Art Tour, I usually have a show at Con Amici in Baraboo for the month of March. We were able to have our opening this year before everything shut down and will have to wait and see what lies ahead for 2021. My work is fairly time consuming so I find that to keep up with inventory two shows is all I can manage. All my past and current work can be found online on my [website](#) where available pieces can be purchased.