



INSPIRED BY NATURE'S LIGHT

FINE ARTIST

Lauren Knode

Writer Donna Kublin
Photographer Bryan Black



<<
"Mesa Sunset Aurora"
48" x 72", Oil

Image on cover:
"Sonoran Desert Spring"
45" x 47", Oil

Fine artist Lauren Knode is inspired by nature's light.

"I love the ever-changing brilliance of a sunset, the light glowing through delicately translucent petals of a flower, the shimmering ripples in a stream or waves gently making their way onto shore," she explains. Lauren wants her paintings to provoke and awaken the senses and transport the viewer to a peaceful, quiet place within.

Lauren is the featured artist in Thunderbird Artists 21st Annual Carefree Fine Art and Wine Festival being held at Carefree Town Center Oct. 31 through Nov. 2. A juried member of the Oil Painters of America and the Sonoran Arts League, she loves to paint large scale, especially her landscapes, and the end result borders on epic.

Her subject matter is mostly influenced by the desert, florals and water. She often takes photographs of the subject in lighting conditions that interest her, then creates a drawing using elements that make for an appealing composition. She then translates her sketch into a painting, most often in oil, but also pastel and acrylic on occasion.

She has an extensive following and her clients love her

strong palette and use of light. Much of her work is done on a commission basis, which she enjoys since she gets to work directly with clients. She meets them in their homes, helping them select the landmarks and elements they would like. She then prepares a sketch and, once finalized, creates a work exclusively for them, satisfaction guaranteed.

A former high school arts teacher in Oregon, Lauren moved to the Valley in 2003 and did her first Thunderbird Artists Arizona Fine Art EXPO at the inaugural show in 2005. She has continued to participate in the shows since then and plans to again when it begins in January 2015. She enjoys the camaraderie with the other artists and appreciates the supportive and nurturing atmosphere that is created by the organizers: Judi Combs and her daughter, Denise Dale, her brother, Dennis Long, and his wife, Judy.

"Patrons really love it," says Lauren, who hears many positive comments about the layout of the show, the quality of the art and the friendliness of the artists. "I'm looking forward to another fantastic year."

laurenknode.com
thunderbirdartists.com