

LUMINESCENT LANDSCAPES

Painter Lauren Knode taps into light and color for her signature Southwestern landscapes

BY JORDAN MORENO



With every detail captured, one look at a Lauren Knode painting and you might believe it is actually a photograph.

Now highly appreciated for the intricate features of a desert landscape, Knode's time as an artist began as a child in Portland, Oregon. Knode, who comes from a family of artists, has always been a knowledge-seeker and lover of education. Her deep appreciation for art history stems from a semester abroad in northern Italy. Knode holds a bachelor's of fine arts, a minor in education and a master's in arts and teaching, and she spent 20 years as a high school art teacher before becoming a full-time artist.

Always eager to learn, Knode joined a number of women's art groups where she first learned of the Phippen Museum Western Art Show in Arizona and immediately fell in love with the warm palette of the Southwest.

Her history as a full-time artist in Phoenix dates back to 2004; the first year of the Arizona Fine Art Expo in which she has been a regular ever since. After 27 years on the fine art circuit, Knode has an eye toward hunkering down in 2023 and beyond. The self-proclaimed "road warrior" spent years traveling across the country participating in fine art shows.

"I would pack up my van and hit a few shows back-to-back," Knode says. "I would set everything up myself and tear down and head to the next show. Family and friends were very supportive. I kept gravitating toward Southwestern paintings, so much so that it didn't make sense for me to attend the Northwestern shows anymore."

With one painting engulfing upwards of three months from conception to completion, Knode spends five to seven hours at a time in front of her canvas while simultaneously running all business operations.

"I never give up on a painting. I am devoted to one at a time," she says.

From sizing to the customization and installation of a one-of-a-kind work of art, Knode collaborates with her clients through the entire process.

"A sunset's ever-changing brilliance in a desert landscape is my favorite subject to depict," she says. "Along with the translucency of delicate flower petals, and the shimmering light in the ripples of a stream."

When she is not furthering her business, Knode loves reading, landscaping and gardening with an abundance of orchids around her home. She appreciates exploring local art galleries and taking day trips around Arizona.

Learn more at www.laurenknodeart.com.