

What does fog, 20 mph winds, sunshine, lemon trees and art have in common? Well, artist Laura Drumwright can attest that all of these were part of her recent adventure to San Francisco to attend PACE19. PACE stands for Plein Air Convention & Expo. She met up with nearly 1,000 artists who love to render with watercolors, pastel and oil paint in the great outdoors. The convention hosted the largest gathering of outdoor painters in the history of art to date! Plein Air means to paint in the open air.

Laura's love of the outdoors has been a constant throughout her life. She grew up with parents who encouraged her art and took her to the mountains or beach often. Growing up sailing with her dad, watching vast sunsets in West Texas and coming from a heritage of painters inspired her to follow her passion for art.

After years of dabbling in art while raising a family and running a decorative finishes business in Nashville she is living her dream life. Currently she has a full blown studio in her Dallas home and travels to Hawaii, Seattle, Colorado, New York and many places in between. Currently she's studying under some of the finest artists of our time. She's is fining her voice in the art world which leans toward Impressionism. Her desire is to share the "feeling" she had when on location. Finding inspiration is easy but painting is "work" the artist says. "Every piece has it's challenges. I'm looking to find a palette of colors that will harmonize, sketch out a composition from the scene in front of me, set up in a stable location to withstand the wind, rain, sun, terrain & wildlife. All the while, meeting the challenge of capturing a "sense of place" before the weather or sunlight changes too much. This all must happen in under 3 hours!" Add to that the set up of cameras when capturing the event for an online lesson or social media, time taken to visit with passers by, and an occasional step back to assess her progress...it truly does sound like "work". Did you know it's often said a painting requires the artist to make appx. 10,000 decisions. Wow!

Plein Air painting is not for everyone but, it is for this girl! She loves feeling the air move around her, soaking in the warmth of the sun, listening to the waves crash on the lava, or catching a glimpse of wildlife scampering about. Laura says a favorite family activity is sitting snuggled up under a porch watching a thunderstorm pass by with it's loud claps and bright streaks of lightening, then relaxing to the sounds of a soft rain. Her favorite of all outdoor times though is watching the sunrise or sunset. "These moments open or close the day with a peaceful sense that God is thinking of me and created this very moment, with all it's beauty, for me to soak in His glory and feel close to my creator."

We hope you will come by the gallery to see a collection of her current works, some from afar and some from local scenes. You are also welcome to visit her website to see more and read more about LauraLee at [www.LauraLeeGallery.com](http://www.LauraLeeGallery.com). Coming soon are paintings from her recent trip through The Grand Tetons, Yellowstone & Glacier National Parks. You won't want to miss seeing those locations through the eyes of one of our favorite artists, Laura Lee Drumwright!