

LAURIANA GLENNY

ARTIST STATEMENT: RETURNING LIGHT

As a contemporary artist working within the long established tradition of landscape painting, my works explore notions of place, belonging and the natural environment. Creating layers of bold brushstrokes with mixed media such as oils, spray paints and acrylics across large canvases, or velvety layers of charcoal across paper, I attempt to capture the everyday moments and unexpected encounters with the beauty that surrounds me. My style is best described as loose and expressive, but always grounded in reality, with strong observation skills and good sound drawing at its base.

Through an intuitively led process, I find myself layering my canvas or paper surfaces with spray painted numbers, alphabet letters or text, sometimes including my own journaling or collaged ephemera. For as long as I can recall, I have been fascinated and intrigued by the shape of text and how letters are fashioned and formed. Perhaps it was because I taught myself calligraphy at a very young age or maybe it's thanks to my graphics on-the-job-training whilst hustling various commercial day jobs whilst working towards the goal of becoming a fulltime professional artist.

Journaling as a daily, meditative, prayerful practice, is something that grounds and anchors both my creativity and my spiritual life, so it comes as no surprise that my journalings, whether spray painted or hand written, somehow seem to weave themselves into my paintings at some point or another. This is something that really excites and thrills me, and helps prevent the process from becoming static or boring.

Perhaps this layering of text is also a way of merging my own story with that of the city that I now find myself livening in. A city with its own layered urban thread of unspoken, unseen or unnoticed stories. By choosing to look at this world through the lens of awe and wonder, despite the brokenness we see all around us, I feel deeply fulfilled knowing that I could possibly provide some sort of freshly inspired narrative of my own – that of hope and light through my brushstrokes.

The pursuit of light is a constant thread running through all my artworks – almost as though each painting is engaged in a quiet search for something transcendent and radiant.

The theme of *Returning Light* for this collection emerged through a creative dialogue between my paintings and the poetry of Elaine Rumboll. Her poems trace a journey through doubt, silence and encounter, leading ultimately to those ordinary places where grace gently returns.

In this way, poetry and painting meet within a shared landscape of light, wilderness and quiet contemplation – a space where revelation unfolds softly. It is, in essence, a return to the illumination of awe and wonder. And in pausing to notice this light, perhaps the viewer, too, may feel a little lighter, and a little less burdened by the weight of the world.

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