

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Laura Ball

The sun was glad to see my shadow

May 31 — June 28, 2025

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 31, 5–8 pm

Free and open to the public | Artist in attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present *The sun was glad to see my shadow*, an exhibition of new watercolors by San Diego, CA-based artist Laura Ball. For her 5th solo exhibition with the gallery, Ball leans away from the fantastical amalgamated creatures she has become known for, instead focusing on imagined landscapes and otherworldly environments.

In an artistic process Ball describes as “getting lost,” after ten years of painting creatures, her passion for bringing awareness to endangered plants and animals endures, but moves out of the spotlight. With subject matter focused less on hyper-detailed endangered organisms and more on the real and imagined landscapes shared by all beings, Ball explores abstract imagery to harness the urgent ecological issues that motivate her.

With landscapes at the forefront, Ball is able to draw the viewer’s attention to spatial depth, mark-making, brush strokes, and color as she renders vistas that present time and space in a filmic manner. In *Pyrotechnics*, Ball explores the concept of a vista as a means to contemplate distance and time in a scenic pan that moves in and out of focus on the paper. Using layers of floral patterns and abstracted lines that frame the periphery view, the eye is guided by stacked horizons moving upwards from the bottom on the paper. Drawn down by drips of watercolor pigment, Ball nods to the process of watercolor while further abstracting the composition. Ecology is here metaphorically captured in the depiction of the land, as a terrain that boldly conveys joy.

With the planet’s wild environments dwindling as overdevelopment hurls forward, Laura Ball has shifted to depict sites within the landscape of the collective unconscious. This mysterious space, where the cosmic and earthly ecstatically coalesce, is where Ball focuses her attention in *The sun was glad to see my shadow*. Here, she traverses a new realm, meanders in the untamed in-between, thoughtfully capturing subconscious landscapes imbued with Animism, energy, and spirit.

About Laura Ball

Laura Ball’s work combines her technical achievements in watercolor with an ongoing part-psychoanalytical, part-environmental project she has explored for over fifteen years. She received her MFA in 2004 from the University of California, Berkeley.

Ball has exhibited at the Denver Art Museum, the Berkeley Art Museum, the US Embassy in Stockholm, the Strozziina (Florence, IT), the Hudson River Museum, the San Diego History Center, David B. Smith Gallery (Denver, CO), and Morgan Lehman Gallery (New York, NY), among others. Her work is in numerous public and private collections including the Denver Art Museum, LACMA, the Cleveland Clinic, JPMorganChase, Fidelity Investments, 21C, the Progressive Collection, Roanoke College, Sonoma State University and the West Collection.

She currently lives and works in San Diego with her cat-child, Mowgli.



Laura Ball, *Pyrotechnics*, 2024, watercolor, ink, gesso, gouache, acrylic, colored pencil, and wax on paper, 51.5 x 34.5 in. (130.8 x 87.6 cm)

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

David B. Smith Gallery is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA).

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