

The sun was glad to see my shadow

In my new work I venture into the discomfort of exploration and practice “getting lost.” Leaving the comfort of familiarity I find new footing in the visionary imagination, manifesting a world rich with benevolent and malignant forces that shape natural phenomena and define the topography of an expanding landscape. These scenes are inspired by wishful thoughts of Animism, journeys of mythic heroes, Egyptian origin stories and my own adventures in search of rare plants in San Diego and beyond.

The new watercolors are saturated with color, have sweeping gestures, and room for the medium to act dynamically. The paper’s surface becomes a space to explore, revealing lush gardens and unmapped vistas. A vista encompasses three zones of depth, creating a sense of visual time. Immediate details in the foreground represent the “here and now”, leading into a meandering “in-between” space and a distant horizon. This vast distance reflects the time needed to traverse the terrain, allowing the timeline to unfold in front of you in a filmic manner.

I am the first person to walk in this landscape and when I appeared, the sun was glad to see my shadow.

“One must summer and winter with the land
and wait its occasions. Pine woods that take two and three
seasons to the ripening of cones, roots that lie by in the sand
seven years awaiting a growing rain, firs that grow fifty years
before flowering, — these do not scrape acquaintance.”

-Mary Austin, *The Land of Little Rain*

- Laura Ball