



46th
Gala
2024

FINE ART AUCTION

Leigh-Anne O'Brien

Leigh-Anne, please share your story with us. I was born in Gainesville, Georgia. Attending the University of Georgia, I graduated, Cum Laude, in 2007 with a Bachelors of Fine Art in Sculpture. My three-dimensional background has laid a foundation for my most recent works on paper and canvas. After living in London, England for three and a half years, my family and I have migrated back to the South. Now, I reside in Gainesville, Georgia, and works from my home studio. "Fueled by a curiosity for the natural world, my recent art works have been a reflective study of oysters.

In search of sharks teeth on Ponte Verdra Beach, my son discovered his first oyster shell in August of 2015. His excitement caused me to take pause, and truly see God's beautiful creation. Using watercolors and acrylics, I aim to capture the luminescence of each unique shell". "With a curiosity for all different mediums, my work is a constant exploration. My works usually revolve around the subject of relationships and life experiences. Mainly, I work towards a discovery of identity, and hope I stimulate others to question their own."

Please tell us about your art. I studied and graduated with a BFA in Sculpture from University of Georgia. Sculpture is my first love, however, now I have three kiddos in tow, and paint brushes are more kid-friendly than chain saws, hammers & chisels. Currently, I am working with acrylics on canvas and watercolors on paper. My subject matter ranges from abstract to an expressive study of objects in nature. Oysters have been the predominate feature of my work in the past two years. I find the variation of forms and colors fascinating. My biggest inspiration is nature. I have three very inquisitive children, and often times I see the world in a different way through their eyes.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing artists today? Social media. It is a blessing and a curse. It's fantastic for connecting with supporters and fellow artists. However, it is very difficult to stay focused. Meaning, it is easy to compare yourself as an artist to other artists. How many likes, followers, tags.... etc.! It's exhausting sometimes to stay current on that merry-go-round, while balancing necessary studio and creative time. Maybe one day I can hire a marketing/social media rep!

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