

Laurie Basham

Artist Bio

Laurie Basham is an award-winning pastel artist known for capturing the beauty of light, color, and atmosphere in everyday subjects. Drawn to unique angles, intriguing patterns, and backlit scenes, she is especially inspired by the glowing halo effect created when light illuminates the edges of her subjects. Through her paintings, Laurie seeks to celebrate ordinary moments and transform them into extraordinary visual experiences.

Since retiring from a thirty-four-year career as an art educator in 2019, Laurie has devoted herself to painting and teaching full-time. She has earned awards in plein air competitions as well as numerous local, national, and international exhibitions. A sought-after instructor, she has presented workshops and demonstrations for organizations including the Maryland Pastel Society, the Pastel Society of North Carolina, Florence Thomas Art School, the Streamline Publishing "Pastel Live" events, and numerous art groups throughout the region, in addition to offering online workshops and private instruction.

Laurie is a Signature Member of the Piedmont Pastel Society, where she previously served as President, as well as the Pastel Society of North Carolina, the Maryland Pastel Society, and a Juried Associate Member of the Pastel Society of America. She lives in Clemmons, North Carolina, and has a studio in the Arts District of Winston-Salem. Her art is available through her website, lauriebashamfineart.com, and is represented by Artfolio's in Winston-Salem, the Four Corner's Gallery in Mooresville, NC, and the Florence Thomas School of the Arts gallery.

Laurie Basham

Artist Statement

Laurie loves to capture the beauty of life by infusing light and color into her paintings using the pure pigment of pastels. Since her retirement from teaching art in the Maryland area, she has won many awards and acceptances for local, national, and international pastel shows. Since moving to the Winston-Salem area in 2020, she has been very active in many national, state, and local art societies and groups. Her love of teaching art continues with online demos for art societies, as well as workshops and classes in the medium of pastel. She says, “I love capturing everyday beauty in pastel—the way light dances on petals, a lacy tree shadow, or a child’s glowing face. At my easel, whether outdoors or in the studio, I find peace, joy, and creative flow. Each stroke of pigment blends intuition with experience, turning moments into art that I hope resonates with others.”

Laurie is a pastel artist inspired by travel and nature, capturing light and shadow in landscapes, figures, and still life. With a background in art education, she now dedicates herself as a full-time artist, earning awards and leading workshops. She is a signature member of the Piedmont Pastel Society and the Maryland and Degas Pastel Societies. She is active in Winston-Salem arts and is showcased in Artfolios Gallery. She is an Associate Member of the Pastel Society of America.

See more of Laurie’s work at [Laurie Basham Fine Art](http://LaurieBashamFineArt.com). lauriebashamfineart.com

- Materials supply list: Pastels, Pan Pastels, Pastel Pencils, watercolor and acrylic brushes, Lux Archival sanded paper, watercolor paper, Inktense Sticks, India Ink, Sepia Ink
- **Pastel Meets Water: Exploring Watermedia Techniques with Pastel**
Pastels are often thought of as a dry medium, but they can be combined beautifully with water-based techniques. In this demonstration, Laurie Basham will show how watercolor, ink, Inktense, and even dissolved pastel can be used to create vibrant underpaintings that add depth, color, and excitement to a pastel painting. The demonstration will include a variety of underpainting approaches and a step-by-step pastel painting that illustrates how watermedia and pastel can work together to create luminous results.