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My name is Laura Wilton, and I am an artist from Vestal, NY in upstate New York. I studied art education at Harding University in Arkansas.

I did not always want to be an artist. Even during my first year at university, all I knew was that I wanted to be a teacher of some sort. However, I did follow one art class as an elective. Even though I found this class stressful at times, when the semester was over, I itched to take another art class. In reflecting on this, I came to realize that while I didn't always like art, I couldn't live without it. I also thought about all the good that art had brought to me over the years, and all the good that I could hopefully bring others by pursuing this career. Before the end of that class, I had chosen to make art my major.

Over the course of my studies at Harding, I reflected on what was so alluring about art for me. My conclusion was that art was a means of peace. This peace was twofold: I both found peace when making art, and hoped to share peace through the art I made.

While I have experience in many different medias, ceramics quickly became my favorite. With ceramics, I find more peace than with any other medium. I find that when I let the clay speak to me, I am capable of making beautiful things. It is a perfect reminder to relax and have peace, because when I let the clay choose what to become, the finished piece is often better than when I try to force my idea of what to make onto the clay.

Whether I am drawing or painting, I am always drawn to scenes that have a sense of serenity. Whether it is looking out over a landscape or close up drawings of flowers and squirrels, the art I make is inspired by scenes in my life that have brought me peace. While this was not a conscious decision, seeing my favorite works together has helped me realize it.

I believe that art should be something that improves the life of the viewer. Art can do this in many different ways, but with my art, I have chosen to do it by inspiring peace. The world we live in is too full of stress, and anything I can do to relieve it will be worth it.

List of Works

Mosaic:

Transformed

Paintings:

Through my Window

Golden Hour

Still Life with Fruit and Flowers

Danse Macabre

Souvenirs:

Chateau de Chillon

Mont Blanc

Marche aux Fleurs

Wildflowers

Hyde Park

Domaine de Fontenille

Ceramics:

Galaxy Planters

Mobile

Gold Bowl

Tenmoku Vase

White Teapot

Tenmoku Teapot

Dark Brown Teapot

Green Teapot

Gold Teapot



Transformed

Mosaic on table
18" diameter

To make this piece, I reclaimed various different items. There is an assortment of vases, some shells, broken pottery, scrap pieces of stained glass, and a collection of broken and salvaged mosaic supplies, along with the one part that was not previously used or rejected, the glass rounds. My goal was to take things that, on their own, were worthless and make something beautiful out of them. The parts are not simply restored to their former state, they are improved upon, made even better: transformed



Through my Window

Triptych in acrylic

9" by 12, 16" by 20", 9" by 12"

This piece is an experiment in color manipulation, as an attempt to get out of my comfort zone. I tend to be a very realistic artist, so making even one thing unrealistic was difficult for me. The subject of these three paintings are three of the places I've lived: the apartment I stayed in in Paris, my dorm room at Harding University, and my childhood home. I chose these subjects because I wanted to show that there is beauty in the mundane things that we see everyday, such as the view through a window. Ultimately, this is one of my favorite pieces because these three places are part of what makes me who I am.



Golden Hour

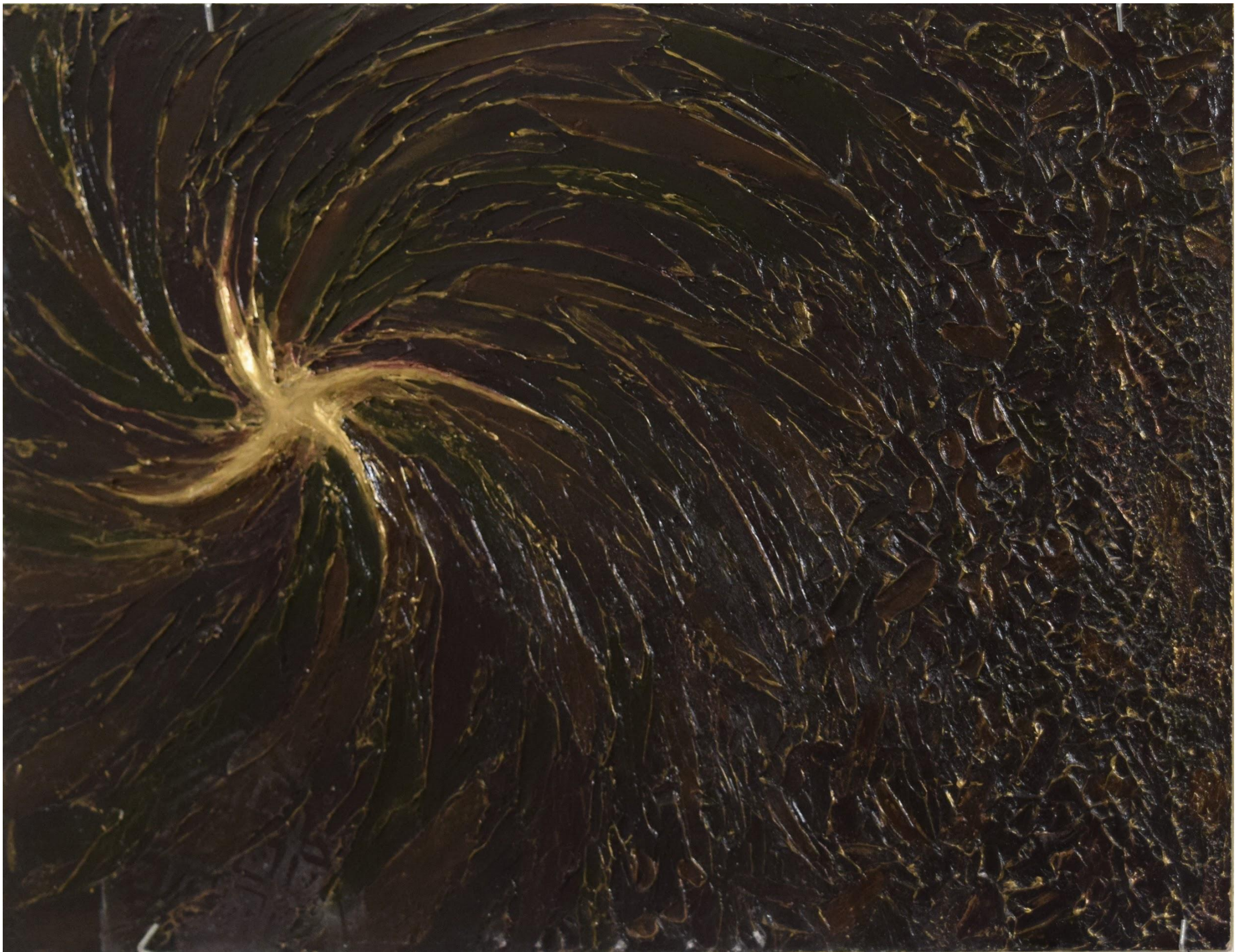
Oil on fresco
18" by 24"



Still Life with Fruit and Flowers

Oil Paint

24" by 32"



Danse Macabre

Acrylic and modeling paste
12" by 18"

Souvenirs

The following pieces are based on photos I took during my overseas trips. During my time at Harding, I was blessed with the opportunity to study abroad in Paris and go to Geneva, Switzerland for a French immersion program. During these trips, I took photos so that I would have something to bring back memories of the amazing experiences I had. Upon returning, these photos became the inspiration for my work, leading to the following 5 pieces. The flower mosaic is based on the wildflowers that I would see along the canola fields in Geneva, and the flowers on the other side are based on the flower market in Nice, France. On the following pages, you can see the Alps as seen from the Aiguille du Midi, and the entry gate to a hotel in the south of France. Finally, there is a squirrel from Hyde Park in London, and the Chateau de Chillon in Switzerland

Chateau de Chillon
Veytaux, Switzerland
Oil
12" by 18"





Mont Blanc

Chamonix, France

Watercolor

11" by 17"



Marche aux Fleurs

Nice, France
Colored Pencil
12" by 12"



Wildflowers

Geneva, Switzerland
Glass mosaic
11.5" by 16.5"



Hyde Park

London, England
Conte
10" by 13"



Domaine de Fontenille

Provence, France

India Ink
9" by 12"

Various Ceramics

Ceramics is one of my favorite mediums due to how peaceful it is for me. With this medium, I could happily spend hours on end working, and leave feeling restored and relaxed, which is not always the case with other medias. Ceramics also has a much higher “fail rate” than other mediums that I use. Between beginning a pot and taking it out of the last firing, there are so many opportunities for it to be ruined: a pot could collapse on the wheel, crack while drying, be dropped, or the glaze could have defects. This makes a successful piece feel even more rewarding.

Bottom left: Galaxy Planters
Right: Mobile





Top left: Gold Bowl
Top right: Tenmoku Vase
Bottom left: Blue Bowl

Teapots

Teapots are one of my favorite forms to make in ceramics because of how challenging they are. There are four different parts to them that all have to work seamlessly together: the body, the spout, the handle, and the lid. If any one part doesn't work with the others, the entire teapot loses value.



Bottom left: Tenmoku Teapot
Bottom right: White Teapot



Top left: Dark Brown Teapot
Top right: Green Teapot
Bottom right: Gold teapot