



*Floating Lotus*, 17 x 47 in., oil on canvas, by **Jamee Aubrey**

## Jamee Aubrey: *Nature Imprinted*

By **Devon Peltengill** / CASA

**A** **GLISTENING POND** and the silhouette of a telephone pole are both things of beauty in the paintings of Jamee Aubrey, whose exhibit *Nature Imprinted* is on display at Santa Barbara Art Association's Gallery 113 through May 30th. A reception for the show will be 5pm to 7pm on Thursday, May 21st.

"I feel the artist's role is as a muse for society," shared Aubrey. "If we all share our visions, everybody will have a more intimate view of the world."

Aubrey notes the strong influence new California impressionism has had on art in Santa Barbara, through the likes Ray Strong and the Oak Group. Though she sees the California impressionist influence in her work, she also sees her paintings as surreal, imaginative works based on the landscape.

"I find I have a different take on it," she shared. "I'm not a quick artist. I become very involved in a painting. It mutates. I never know what it will be at the start."

Aubrey's paintings begin as plein air but also take inspiration from her sketches and photographs. A major theme of her work is water, which appears as a prominent element in every painting.

"I've loved swimming in the ocean all my life," Aubrey shared. "I love painting water."

Aubrey grew up in Santa Barbara. Her first memories of creating art were in kindergarten and the Peabody School. She attended San Marcos High School and at 18 spent four days living at impressionist museum the Jeu de Pommes in Paris, which provided inexpensive winter accommodations, an experience which she

recalls as truly inspiring to her art.

Aubrey went on to earn her Bachelor's of Fine Arts from the University of Washington and studied for three years at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena.

The title of the show is also a hint of Aubrey's career in screen printing and design. She ran a silkscreening and manufacturing company in Portland, Oregon, where she raised her son, before returning to Santa Barbara a few years ago to paint full time.

"Santa Barbara is a fabulous art community," she shared. "It's not a negatively competitive environment. It's very supportive."



**Jamee Aubrey**

Aubrey is involved in the art community beyond the stroke of her paintbrush. She is the publicity chair and former Vice President of Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE), which has an environmental focus. She has taken classes through the SBCC Adult Education program, and counts several of the instructors there among her mentors.

She has taught private art lessons and workshops through the Santa Barbara Arts Association and has been involved in the Goleta Valley Art Association, Los Padres Watercolor Society, the Printmaker's Guild, and Santa Barbara Studio Artists.

"I want people to feel like they're seeing a perspective that they wouldn't have seen just by driving by," shared Aubrey. "They will see a more intimate world and have more insight. That's why the world needs art."

Gallery 113 is located in La Arcada Courtyard at 1114 State St, and is open 11am-5pm Mon-Sat & 1-5pm Sun. For more information, call 965-6611 or visit [www.sbartassoc.org](http://www.sbartassoc.org).



*Inlet Sunset*, 15 x 30 in., oil on canvas, by **Jamee Aubrey**